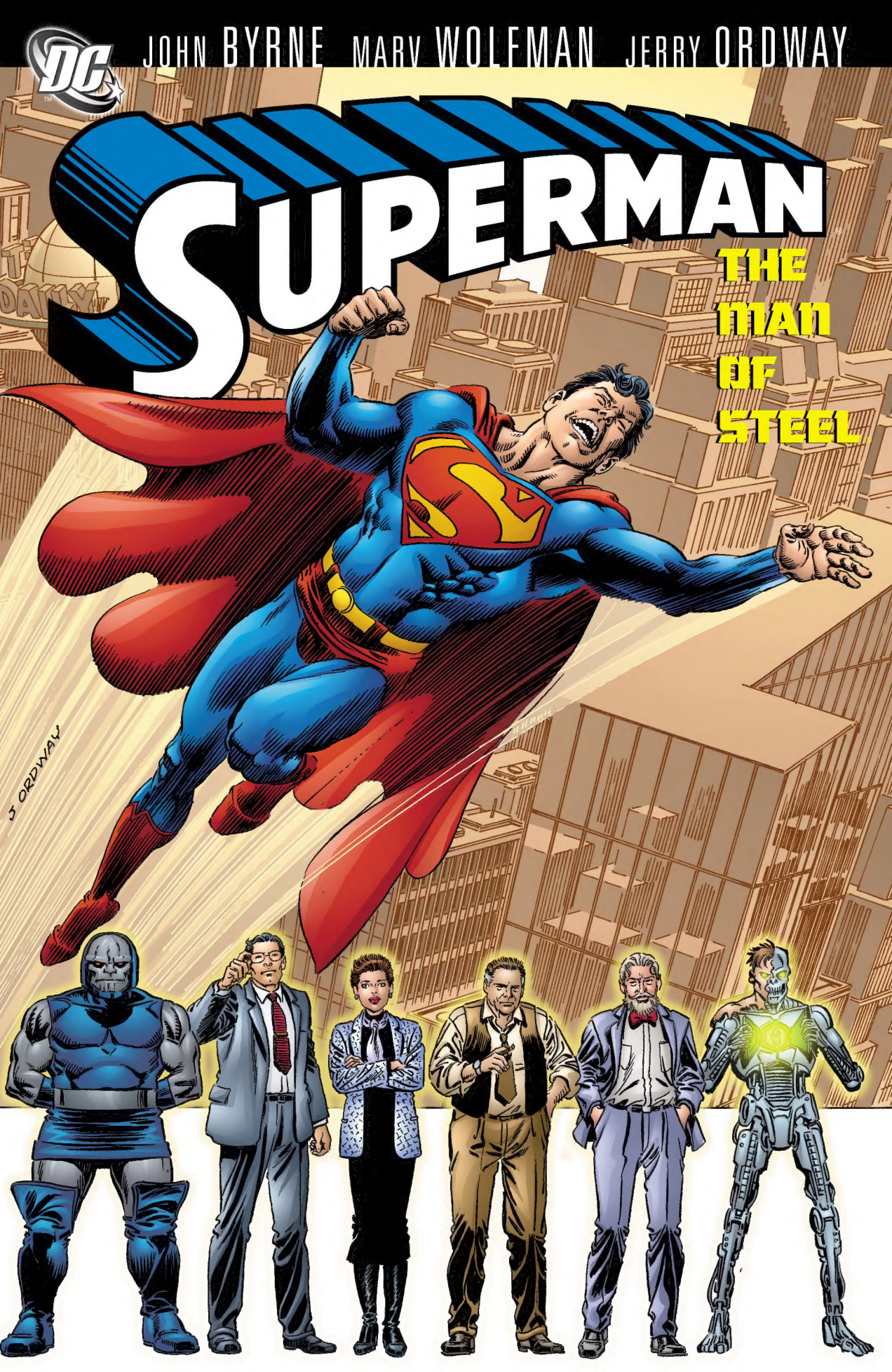

JOHN BYRNE MARV WOLFMAN JERRY ORDWAY
SUPERMAN
THE MAN OF STEEL
J ORDWAY

A NEW ERA FOR THE MAN OF STEEL

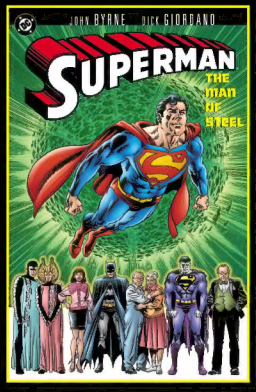
SUPERMAN

THE MAN OF STEEL

In 1986, on the eve of Superman's 50th birthday, DC Comics engineered a dramatic revamping of the character, along with his friends, his foes, and his city. Now, for the first time, the early chapters of Superman's dramatic relaunch are collected in a brand-new trade paperback edition.

In this second volume of SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL, Metropolis's new champion must defend his adopted city from the threat of Metallo while at the same time keeping his civilian identity secret from the man who runs the city — billionaire businessman Lex Luthor. Along the way he meets the beautiful and talented television journalist Cat Grant — a reporter who's more interested personally in Clark Kent than in his alter ego! And as if all that weren't enough, after crossing paths with the Teen Titans and the Phantom Stranger, Superman must journey to Apokolips to confront the ultimate evil — Darkseid.

Famed for his run on Marvel Comics' *The Uncanny X-Men* and *The Fantastic Four*, writer/artist John Byrne reimagined Superman for a new age before going on to chronicle the exploits of Wonder Woman, The Sub-Mariner, and an alternate timeline for Batman and Superman in his three GENERATIONS series. Joining Byrne on the Man of Steel's update are writer Marv Wolfman (THE NEW TEEN TITANS, CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS) and artist Jerry Ordway (WONDER WOMAN, PLANETARY/JLA).



AND DON'T MISS THE STORY THAT STARTED IT ALL!

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SUPERMAN

THE MAN OF STEEL

VOLUME TWO

SUPERMAN

John Byrne Marv Wolfman
Writers

John Byrne Jerry Ordway
Pencillers

Terry Austin Dick Giordano Mike Machlan Jerry Ordway
Inkers

John Costanza Albert T. DeGuzman
Letterers

Tom Ziuko
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John Byrne & Jerry Ordway Original Series Covers

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SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL VOL. 2
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VOLUME TWO

SUPERMAN Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

Reinventing the Wheel

By MARV WOLFMAN

There is no doubt in my mind that Superman, created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, is the greatest comic-book character of all time. I know fans of other heroes might argue with that, but any of those characters, great as they are, take the back seat when compared to Superman, because, with the exception of surface changes, everything they are is owed to the one and original Man of Steel.

Superman was the first comic-book super-hero to wear a costume. The first to have a secret identity. The first to dedicate himself to stopping crime. The first to be misunderstood by the very people he was trying to help. The first to sell millions of copies every month. The first to have a movie, a radio show, a TV show, a Broadway musical, etc.

Every concept that has long since become a super-hero cliché originated with Superman. Peter Parker wasn't the first nerd who was really a hero. Clark Kent was, and the early Lois Lane loathed his persona as much as Superman intrigued her. Batman wasn't the first to be hunted by the police. Superman was chased by the law during the very early years of his existence.

I became a Superman fan at age six when I first saw the original *Adventures of Superman* TV show. As a kid, I sent away to Kellogg's Sugar Frosted Flakes to get one of the Superman T-shirts they were selling. I bought every Superman family comic I could get my hands on and whatever merchandise I could find and afford.

I never thought I'd get a chance to work on Superman, much less participate in his redevelopment. But I did. Not only once, but twice.

I made my first sale to DC Comics in December of 1967 with an issue of BLACKHAWK. After that, I worked on THE TEEN TITANS, SHOWCASE, HOUSE OF MYSTERY, and many other titles, but never got the chance to write the Big Enchilada himself. In 1972, after a short stint at Warren Magazines, I was lured to Marvel Comics by then-editor Roy Thomas. I spent eight years there, first heading up their black-and-white magazine department, then becoming Editor-in-Chief of their color comics. I also wrote for nearly every title they had, and created more than 70 characters, including such stalwarts as Blade, the Vampire Hunter, Bullseye, Black Cat, and the Man Called Nova. In December 1979, I returned to DC Comics where, after a few one-shots, I was assigned to the book of my dreams: SUPERMAN.

I was writing SUPERMAN and I was working with the great Curt Swan. Tell me I wasn't in seventh heaven. I dare you. Even though I had co-created THE NEW TEEN TITANS, which was rapidly becoming DC's best-selling title, my private moments of joy came from knowing I was working on Superman. What could be better, I wondered? The answer came quickly. The legendary editor Julie Schwartz (everyone bow and intone, "We're not worthy. We're not worthy.") wanted to revamp the title and asked fellow Superman writer Cary Bates and me to come up with new versions of his arch-foes, Lex Luthor and Brainiac.

I came back with two pitches. My Brainiac turned the human-looking machine into a dark, menacing living computer. I wanted to recreate him as something with so much power

even Superman would be helpless before him. Visually, I saw the artist H.R. Giger, who had designed the creature in the film *Alien*, as the starting point for this new Brainiac. I worked with staff artist Ed Hannigan, who came up with an absolutely incredible design.

My Lex Luthor pitch was more groundbreaking. As a kid, I hated Luthor because every month Lex would star in some 8- or 12-page story where he would first have to break out of prison. He would invariably hatch a scheme that would come down to his building a 50-foot robot to rob some bank. Superman would stop him and at the end of eight pages send him back to prison.

Even as a kid I thought this was dumb. If I had the money to build a 50-foot robot, why would I need to rob a bank? Luthor had to spend more money on his robots and hideouts than any bank ever has on hand. I wondered why he didn't use his incredible scientific genius to legally make far more money than he could ever possibly steal? I thought Luthor should be a villain Superman could not defeat with his super powers. Luthor's power was his brain, and he needed to outthink Superman, who was more used to punching his way through a mountain than calculating the square root of pi.

I reasoned if I were Luthor, the best way to fight Superman was simply not to give him a target. Therefore, I would become a businessman and my business would be above board and legal. Further, I would make Luthor Metropolis's number-one citizen. His companies would employ half the city. His charitable deeds would make him famous. He would be the city's most beloved citizen. He would be charming and powerful and everybody would want to have their photo taken with him. Women would flock to him, but the one he'd be most interested in would be Lois Lane, reporter for the *Daily Planet*.

This would be his outward persona. But Luthor, like Superman, would have a secret identity. Hidden under so many layers that even X-ray vision couldn't see through them would be Luthor's criminal life. Money and fame wouldn't be enough. Living atop the highest mountain in Metropolis so he could look down upon the ants while they stared up to him wouldn't be enough. My new Luthor had to prove he could literally do anything he wanted with all the people who meant nothing to him.

Luthor would destroy anyone or anything in his way. He would commit despicable acts, and yet nobody would ever know he was responsible. This was the power he craved.

So, in my mind, Luthor had it all. By being the city's number-one citizen, he had his fame and fortune, and he also gave in to his inner demons and ruled the city through fear. Luthor was a happy man indeed...

...until Superman came to Metropolis and became the new boy in town. This shining god who had no ulterior motives, no guile, and no desire to do anything but help others, would quickly become the new focus for the city. Luthor had money and power, which is always cause for suspicion, but Superman was pure and somehow everyone knew it. If losing his fan base to this alien muscle-boy wasn't bad enough, there was one last knife in the back as far as Luthor was concerned: Superman's basic

"There is no doubt in my mind that Superman, created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, is the greatest comic-book character of all time."

honesty won him Lois Lane.

Luthor instantly hated Superman. Luthor had wanted to be worshipped like a god, and this man took it all away from him.

That was my setup, but as much as Julie liked it, he felt that Cary and I should each be responsible for only one of the revamps, and he went with Cary's proposal. But I was pleased to have recreated Brainiac, and instead of sulking over the loss of Lex, I took my proposal and morphed my new Lex into another great DC villain, Vandal Savage. Vandal now had the corporation and the power and the secret criminal empire. I was fine, and the readers seemed to enjoy the changes Cary and I made.

"Luthor instantly hated Superman."

But all things, good and bad, come to an end. After a lifetime in comics where he pretty much ushered in the entire Silver Age with his modern re-creations of the Flash, Green Lantern, Atom, Hawkman, and a slew of others, Julie Schwartz decided it was time to retire.

At this same time, I had just spent a year working on CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS, where everything in the DC Universe was changing. DC decided to use this opportunity to completely revamp the Man of Steel from scratch. It was a great idea and long overdue.

Because others would be developing the Superman character in the other titles, I was asked about my place in the relaunch. I said first and foremost that I wanted to revive my Luthor concept. I warned if this was accepted my new Luthor would become so powerful he would literally take over all the titles. I typed out a new version of my original proposal and this time it was accepted. DC gave me a contract for the new Luthor, threw a bunch of bucks my way, and I was delighted.

I also wanted to do something even more earthshaking than merely changing the motivations of some follicly-challenged villain. I wanted to come up with a female character who, dare I say it, liked Clark Kent. Not Superman. Clark. After all, Clark is certainly as handsome as Superman, even if he does shuffle and hunch over. He's obviously got a great body. He's also a top reporter, so despite his mild-mannered persona, he had to be a go-getter. And, of course, Clark was, simply put, a nice man. So why *wouldn't* a woman want him?

I came up with Cat Grant, the *Planet*'s beautiful gossip columnist, and, because of the stunning artwork of Jerry Ordway, an incredibly sexy female at that, who focused right on Clark the first time she saw him. Where Lois originally saw a bumbling nerd, Cat Grant saw a tall, powerful, handsome ace reporter. I also gave Cat a strong backstory, which included a kid and a failed marriage, all the kinds of realistic touches that had not been seen in Superman since the early 1940s. Cat became so popular she was even included in the first season of the TV show *Lois and Clark*.

The decision was made to relaunch Superman with three different titles. There would be SUPERMAN, of course, and that would be renumbered starting with issue 1. There was ACTION COMICS, and that would continue its numbering and be a team-up title. And then there would be a third title that would assume the numbering of the original Superman series. That was the book I'd write. Since I started reading

Superman because of the 1950s TV show *The Adventures of Superman*, I proposed using that title. It was immediately approved.

The three titles were split up creatively as well as conceptually. SUPERMAN and ACTION would deal with the Big Stories — Superman fighting great super-villains; Metropolis in peril. The Luthor I created was used in those titles.

I was asked to do science-fiction stories in my book, but I wanted to do smaller stories, more personal tales somewhat more realistic in nature, not unlike the Superman from the '30s and early '40s. This down-and-dirty Superman was the Superman I loved to read when I first had a chance to go through DC's library and pore over his earliest adventures. You can read those great tales in the DC Archives collections, available at better comic book shops everywhere. They are not only fun, but they set the pattern for all comic-book superhero stories right to this day.

Jerry Ordway and I began work together on our Superman book and I couldn't have been happier. For our first issue, which, picking up the SUPERMAN numbering, was #424, I lobbied hard to do a new version of the SUPERMAN #12 cover from the 1940s. Jerry did a magnificent job, and that picture, showing Superman with an eagle on his shoulder, standing before the American flag — hidden in the color streaks of an evening sky — is one of the most beautiful Superman designs done in the last 50 years.

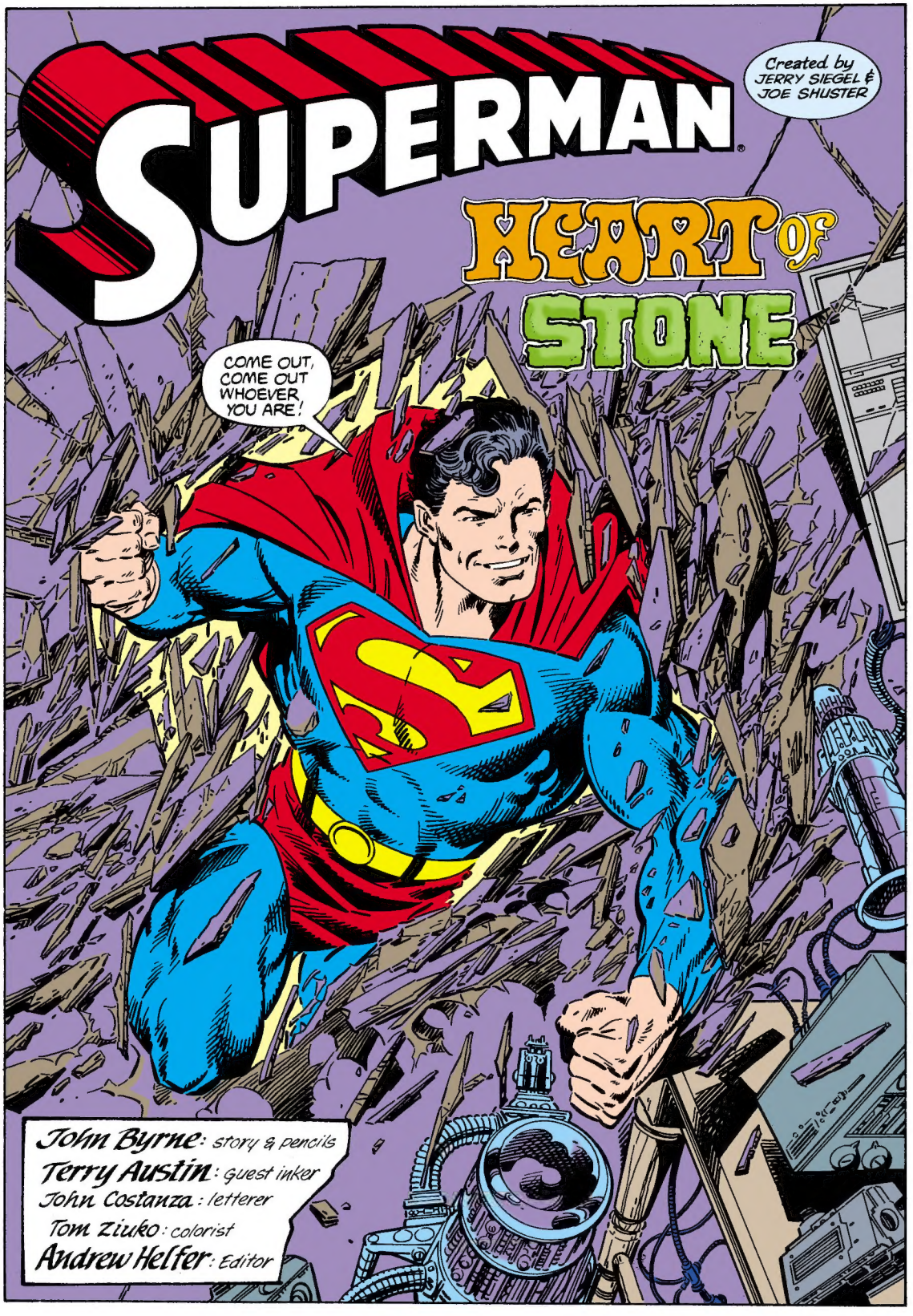
Working with Jerry, who brought a wonderfully realistic style to Superman, I created a number of other new characters, including Professor Emil Hamilton. I have to admit I thought Hamilton was just a simple throwaway, but somehow he caught on. Who knew? Hamilton has not only appeared in the comics, but in the *Lois and Clark* TV show as well as the current hit show *Smallville*. He may have changed races (of course, so did Pete Ross), but there he was, front and center.

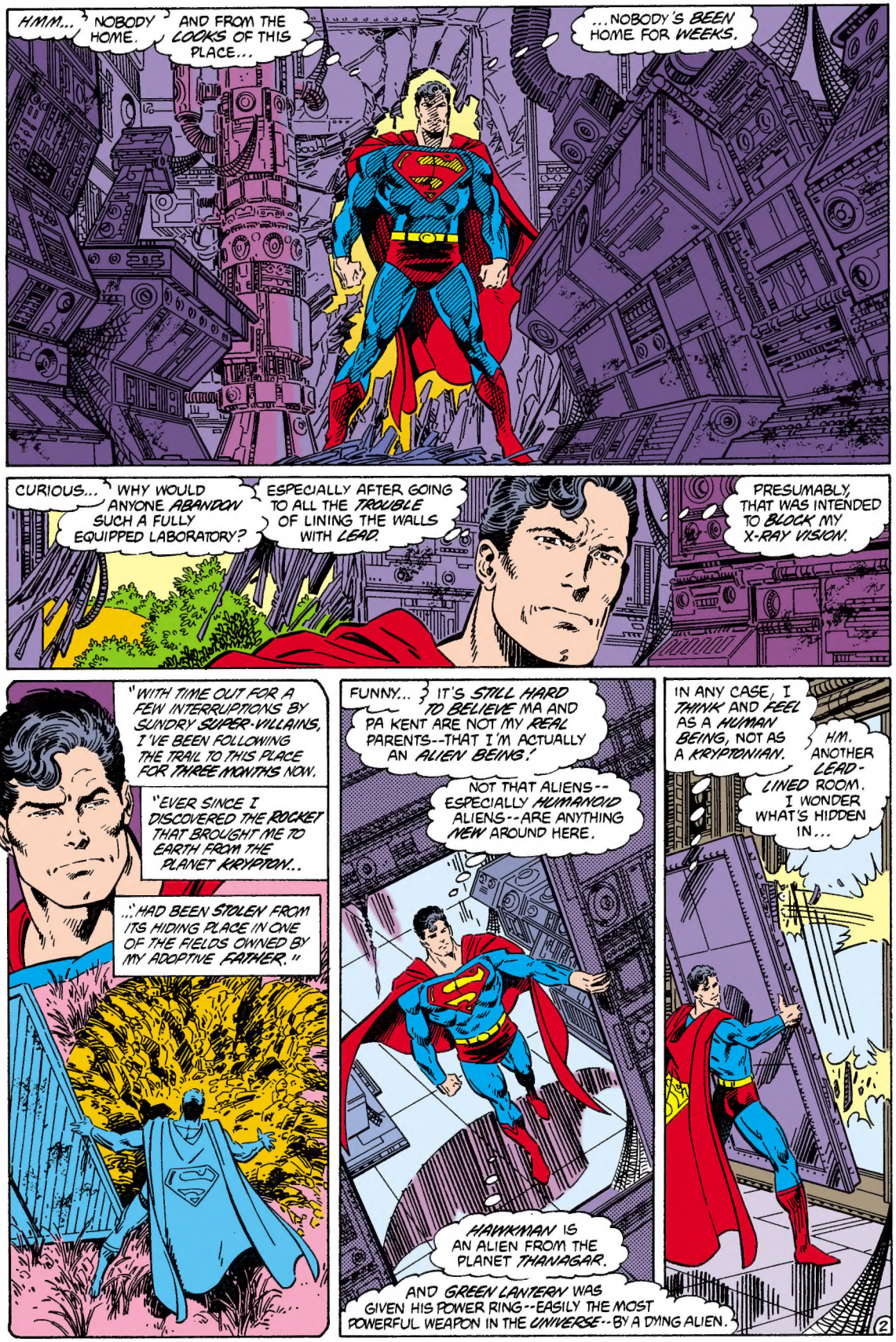
After my first year, because of a terribly long writer's block, I was no longer able to continue writing the title, so Jerry, who had been doing such a wonderful job illustrating my stories, took over the writing chores himself and continued to produce great Superman stories for many years to come. I always wished I had been able to continue, but, as they say, the end of the script has yet to be written. The relaunch of Superman was designed to once again make The Man of Steel the great hero he deserves to be, and, in fact, the books sold through the roof.

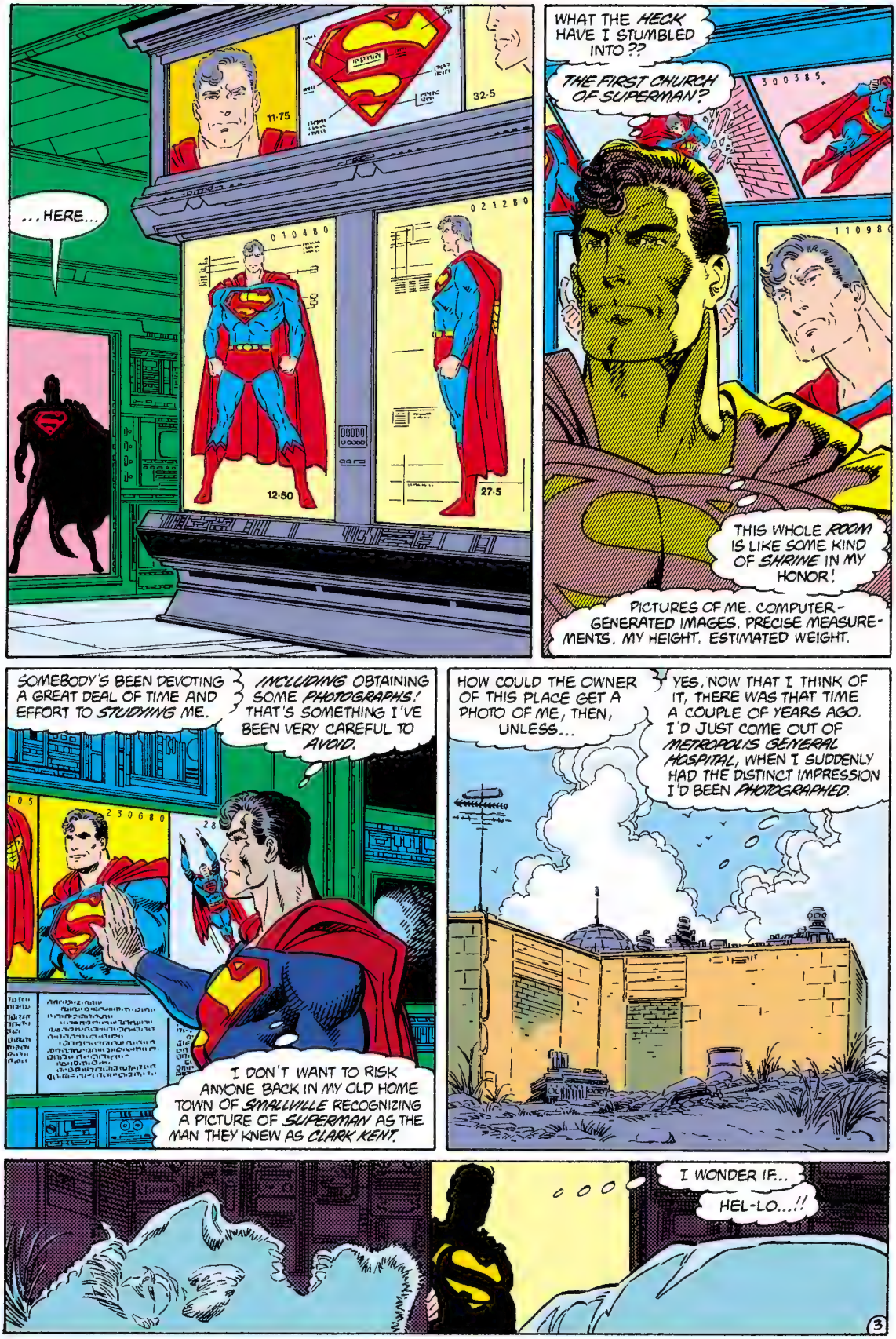
Today, 66 years after his creation, Superman remains the greatest of all heroes. And as long as all the new writers and artists who continue to reshape him to fit the times remember the core of who Superman is and what he stands for, Truth, Justice, and the American Way will always be his unforgettable rallying cry.

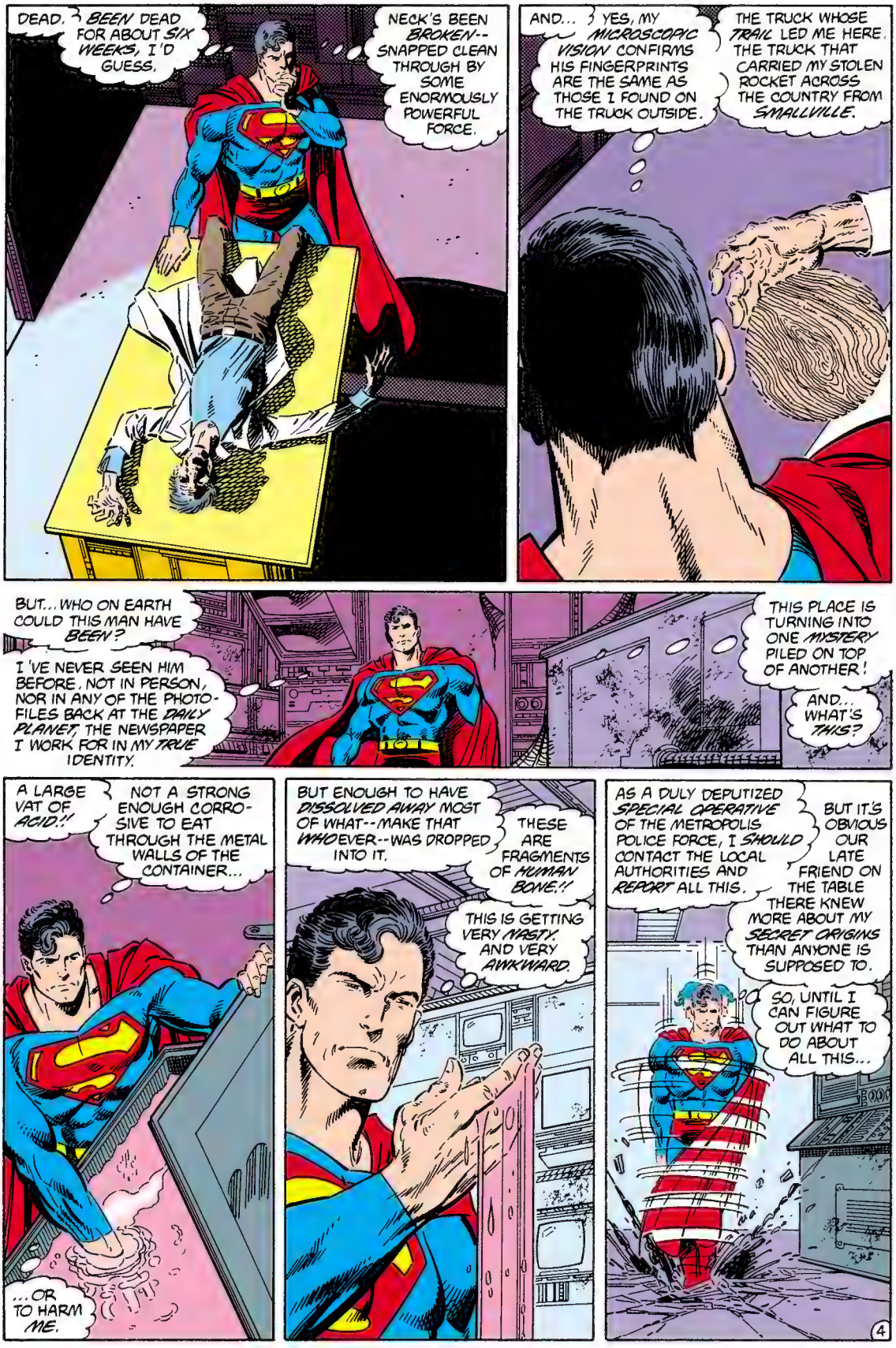
Now it's your turn — the collection you hold in your hands features the first nine issues in our Superman revamp. I hope you'll enjoy the finished product that all the writers and artists worked so hard to produce.

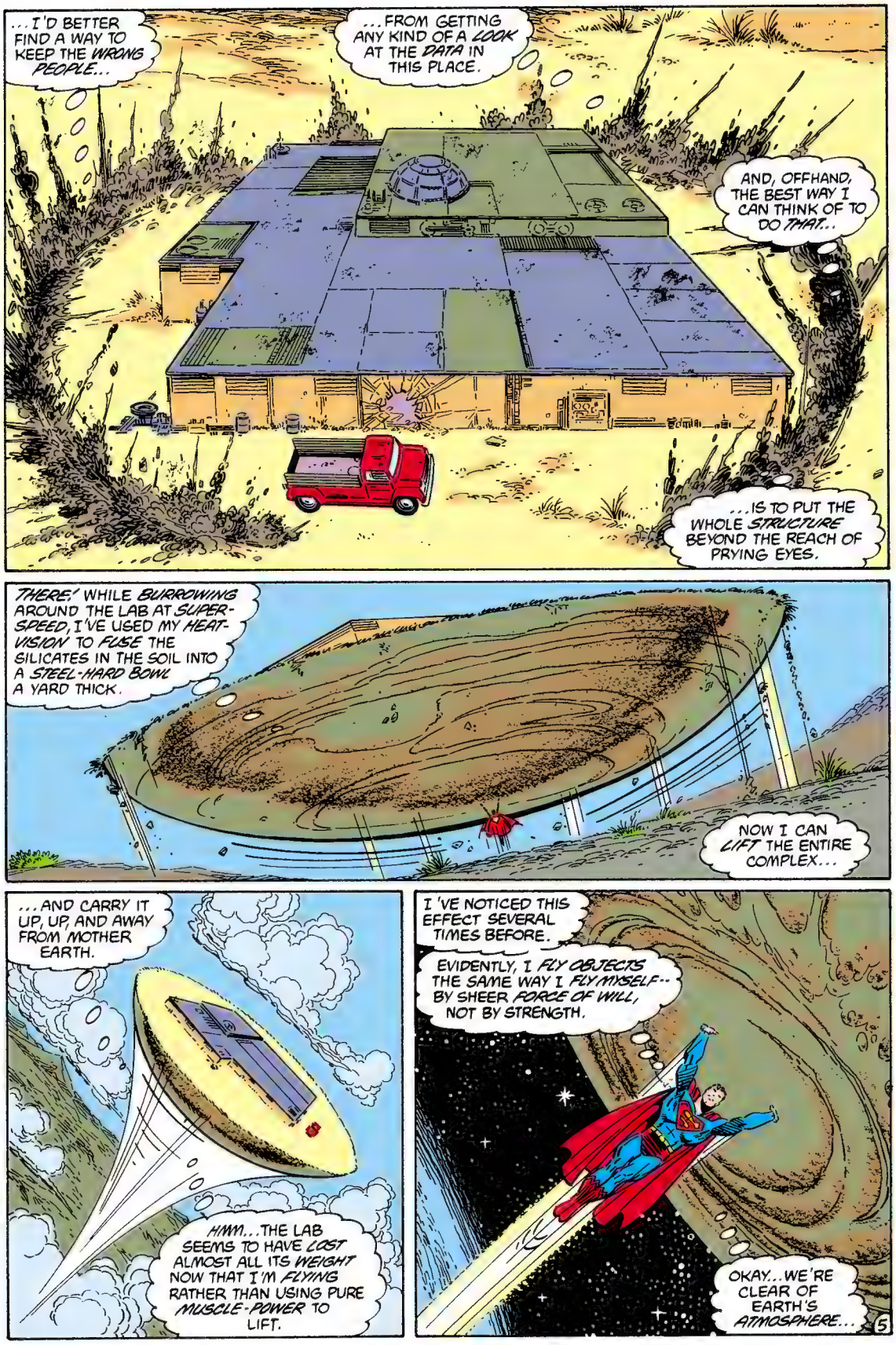
"Today, 66 years after his creation, Superman remains the greatest of all heroes."


SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
HEART OF STONE
COME OUT, COME OUT WHOEVER YOU ARE!
John Byrne: story & pencils
Terry Austin: guest inker
John Costanza: letterer
Tom Ziuko: colorist
Andrew Helfer: Editor

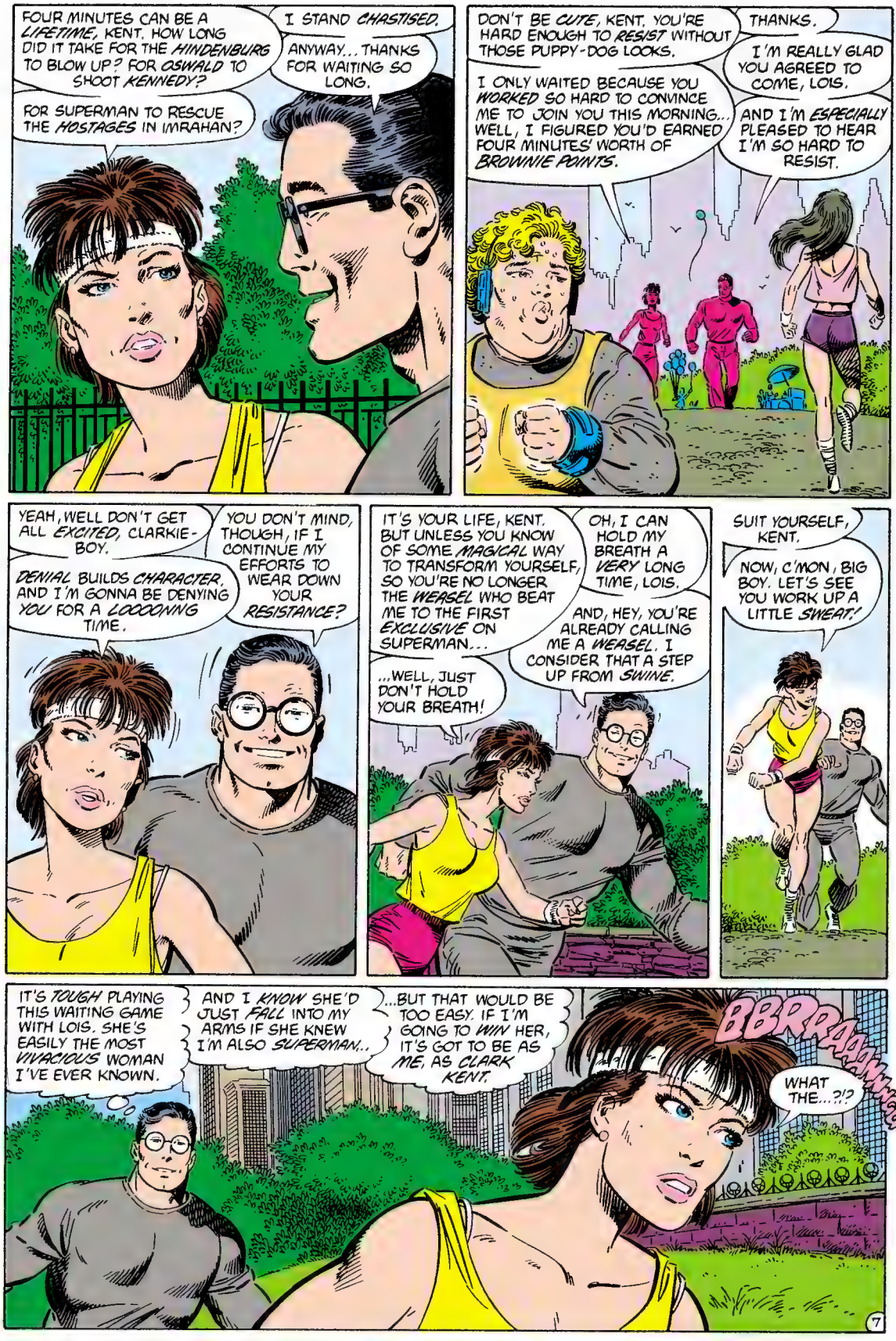

HMM... NOBODY HOME. AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THIS PLACE...
...NOBODY'S BEEN HOME FOR WEEKS.
CURIOUS... WHY WOULD ANYONE ABANDON SUCH A FULLY EQUIPPED LABORATORY?
ESPECIALLY AFTER GOING TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF LINING THE WALLS WITH LEAD.
PRESUMABLY, THAT WAS INTENDED TO BLOCK MY X-RAY VISION.
"WITH TIME OUT FOR A FEW INTERRUPTIONS BY SUNDRY SUPER-VILLAINS, I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE TRAIL TO THIS PLACE FOR THREE MONTHS NOW.
"EVER SINCE I DISCOVERED THE ROCKET THAT BROUGHT ME TO EARTH FROM THE PLANET KRYPTON...
...HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM ITS HIDING PLACE IN ONE OF THE FIELDS OWNED BY MY ADOPTIVE FATHER."
FUNNY... IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE MA AND PA KENT ARE NOT MY REAL PARENTS--THAT I'M ACTUALLY AN ALIEN BEING!
NOT THAT ALIENS--ESPECIALLY HUMANOID ALIENS--ARE ANYTHING NEW AROUND HERE.
HAWKMAN IS AN ALIEN FROM THE PLANET THANAGAR.
AND GREEN LANTERN WAS GIVEN HIS POWER RING--EASILY THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE UNIVERSE--BY A DYING ALIEN.
IN ANY CASE, I THINK AND FEEL AS A HUMAN BEING, NOT AS A KRYPTONIAN.
HM. ANOTHER LEAD-LINED ROOM. I WONDER WHAT'S HIDDEN IN...
2

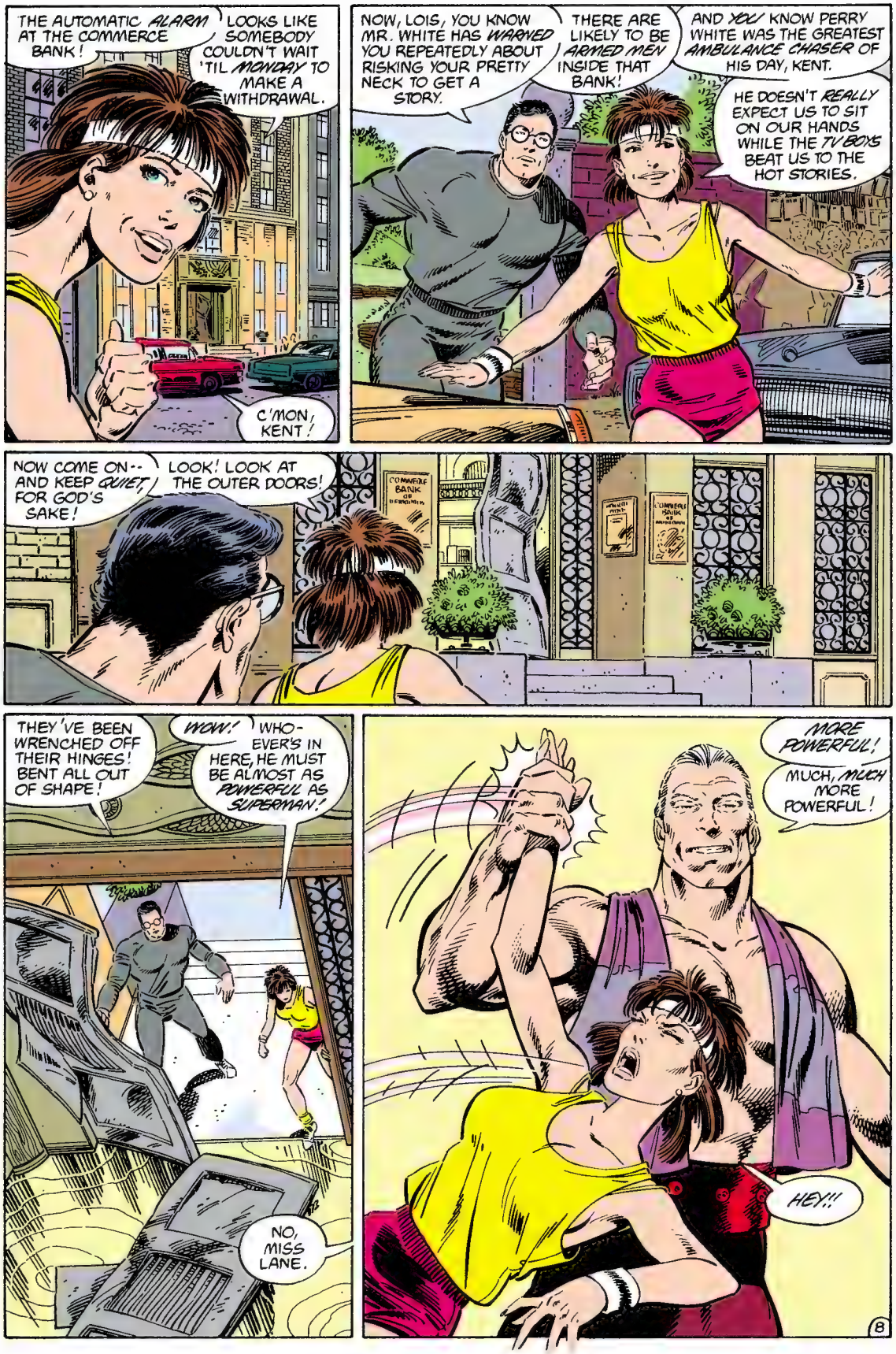

...HERE...
11·75
32·5
12·50
27·5
WHAT THE HECK HAVE I STUMBLED INTO??
THE FIRST CHURCH OF SUPERMAN?
THIS WHOLE ROOM IS LIKE SOME KIND OF SHRINE IN MY HONOR!
PICTURES OF ME. COMPUTER-GENERATED IMAGES. PRECISE MEASUREMENTS. MY HEIGHT. ESTIMATED WEIGHT.
SOMEBODY'S BEEN DEVOTING A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND EFFORT TO STUDYING ME.
INCLUDING OBTAINING SOME PHOTOGRAPHS! THAT'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN VERY CAREFUL TO AVOID.
I DON'T WANT TO RISK ANYONE BACK IN MY OLD HOME TOWN OF SMALLVILLE RECOGNIZING A PICTURE OF SUPERMAN AS THE MAN THEY KNEW AS CLARK KENT.
HOW COULD THE OWNER OF THIS PLACE GET A PHOTO OF ME, THEN, UNLESS...
YES. NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, THERE WAS THAT TIME A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. I'D JUST COME OUT OF METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL, WHEN I SUDDENLY HAD THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION I'D BEEN PHOTOGRAPHED.
I WONDER IF...
HEL-LO...!!
3

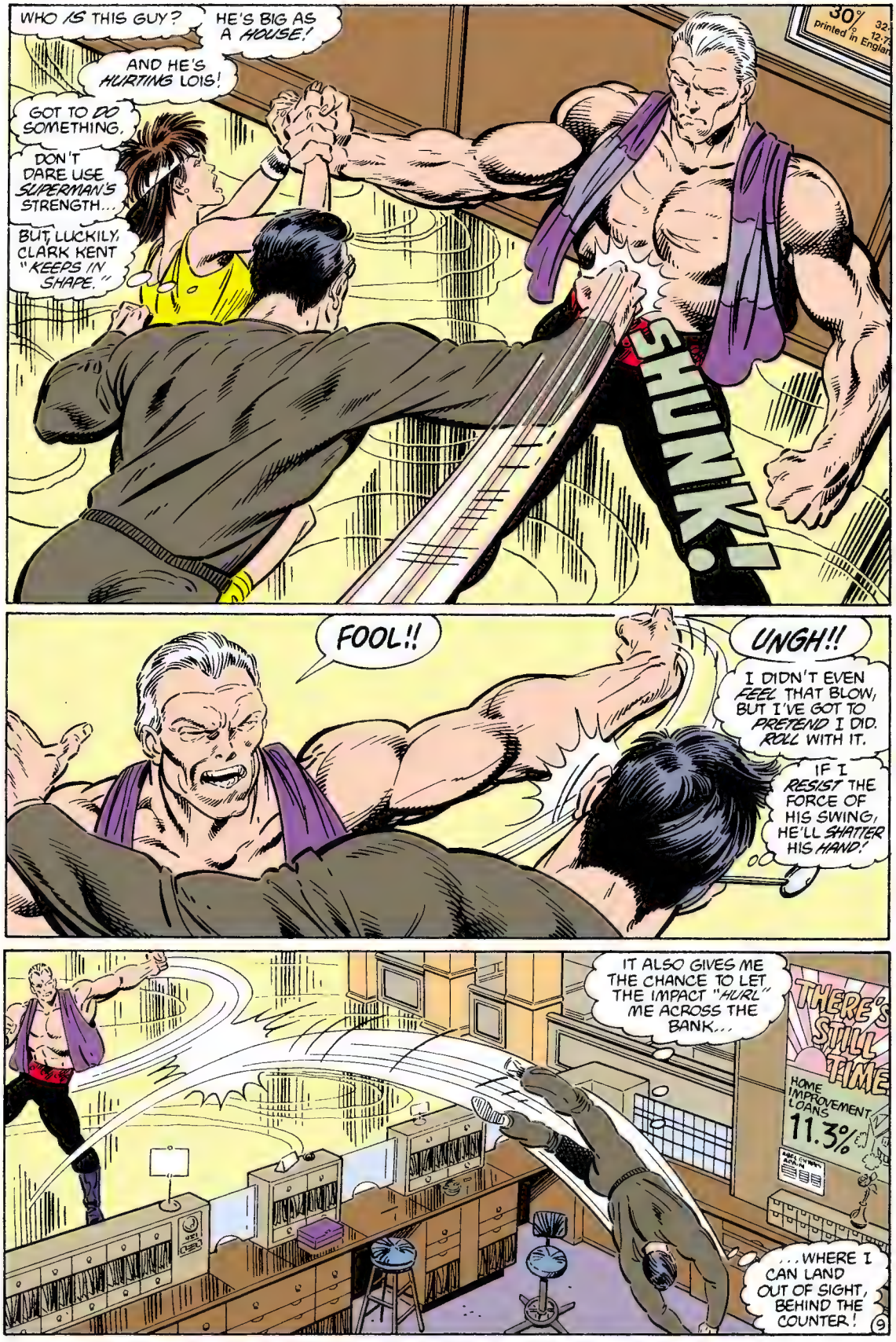

DEAD.
BEEN DEAD FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS, I'D GUESS.
NECK'S BEEN BROKEN--SNAPPED CLEAN THROUGH BY SOME ENORMOUSLY POWERFUL FORCE.
AND...
YES, MY MICROSCOPIC VISION CONFIRMS HIS FINGERPRINTS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE I FOUND ON THE TRUCK OUTSIDE.
THE TRUCK WHOSE TRAIL LED ME HERE. THE TRUCK THAT CARRIED MY STOLEN ROCKET ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM SMALLVILLE.
BUT...WHO ON EARTH COULD THIS MAN HAVE BEEN?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE. NOT IN PERSON, NOR IN ANY OF THE PHOTO-FILES BACK AT THE DAILY PLANET, THE NEWSPAPER I WORK FOR IN MY TRUE IDENTITY.
THIS PLACE IS TURNING INTO ONE MYSTERY PILED ON TOP OF ANOTHER!
AND... WHAT'S THIS?
A LARGE VAT OF ACID!!
NOT A STRONG ENOUGH CORROSIVE TO EAT THROUGH THE METAL WALLS OF THE CONTAINER...
...OR TO HARM ME.
BUT ENOUGH TO HAVE DISSOLVED AWAY MOST OF WHAT--MAKE THAT WHOEVER--WAS DROPPED INTO IT.
THESE ARE FRAGMENTS OF HUMAN BONE!!
THIS IS GETTING VERY NASTY. AND VERY AWKWARD.
AS A DULY DEPUTIZED SPECIAL OPERATIVE OF THE METROPOLIS POLICE FORCE, I SHOULD CONTACT THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND REPORT ALL THIS.
BUT IT'S OBVIOUS OUR LATE FRIEND ON THE TABLE THERE KNEW MORE ABOUT MY SECRET ORIGINS THAN ANYONE IS SUPPOSED TO.
SO, UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT ALL THIS...
4

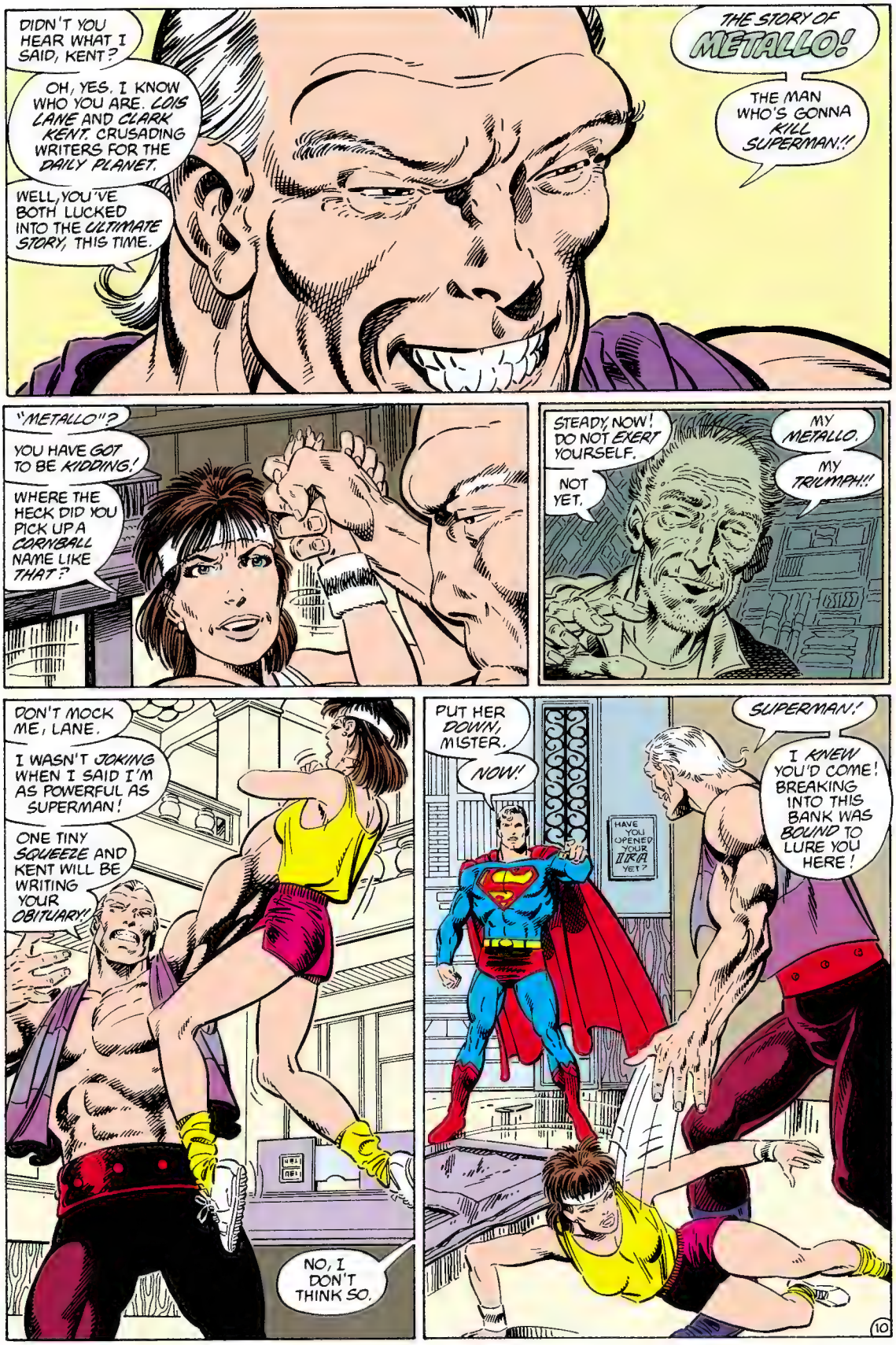

...I'D BETTER FIND A WAY TO KEEP THE WRONG PEOPLE...
...FROM GETTING ANY KIND OF A LOOK AT THE DATA IN THIS PLACE.
AND, OFFHAND, THE BEST WAY I CAN THINK OF TO DO THAT...
...IS TO PUT THE WHOLE STRUCTURE BEYOND THE REACH OF PRYING EYES.
THERE! WHILE BURROWING AROUND THE LAB AT SUPER-SPEED, I'VE USED MY HEAT-VISION TO FUSE THE SILICATES IN THE SOIL INTO A STEEL-HARD BOWL A YARD THICK.
NOW I CAN LIFT THE ENTIRE COMPLEX...
...AND CARRY IT UP, UP, AND AWAY FROM MOTHER EARTH.
HMM...THE LAB SEEMS TO HAVE LOST ALMOST ALL ITS WEIGHT NOW THAT I'M FLYING RATHER THAN USING PURE MUSCLE-POWER TO LIFT.
I'VE NOTICED THIS EFFECT SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE.
EVIDENTLY, I FLY OBJECTS THE SAME WAY I FLY MYSELF-- BY SHEER FORCE OF WILL, NOT BY STRENGTH.
OKAY...WE'RE CLEAR OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE...
5

THERE!
I'VE POSITIONED THE WHOLE THING AT THE LAGRANGE POINT, WHERE THE GRAVITIES OF THE EARTH AND MOON COMBINE TO CREATE AN AREA OF STABILITY.
IT'LL HANG THERE FOREVER...
...OR UNTIL I MOVE IT.
THE NEAR-PERFECT VACUUM OF SPACE WILL PRESERVE ALL THE CLUES IN THE LAB...
...UNTIL I'M READY TO TURN THEM OVER TO THE POLICE.
BUT, RIGHT NOW...
...I'M ALMOST LATE FOR A VERY IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT.
ONE IT'S TAKEN ME WEEKS TO SET UP...
...AND ONE CLARK KENT HAS NO INTENTION OF MISSING!
WELL, THERE YOU ARE!
I WAS ABOUT READY TO GIVE UP ON YOU AND GO HOME, KENT.
OH, GIVE ME A BREAK, LOIS!
I'M ONLY FOUR MINUTES LATE!!
6

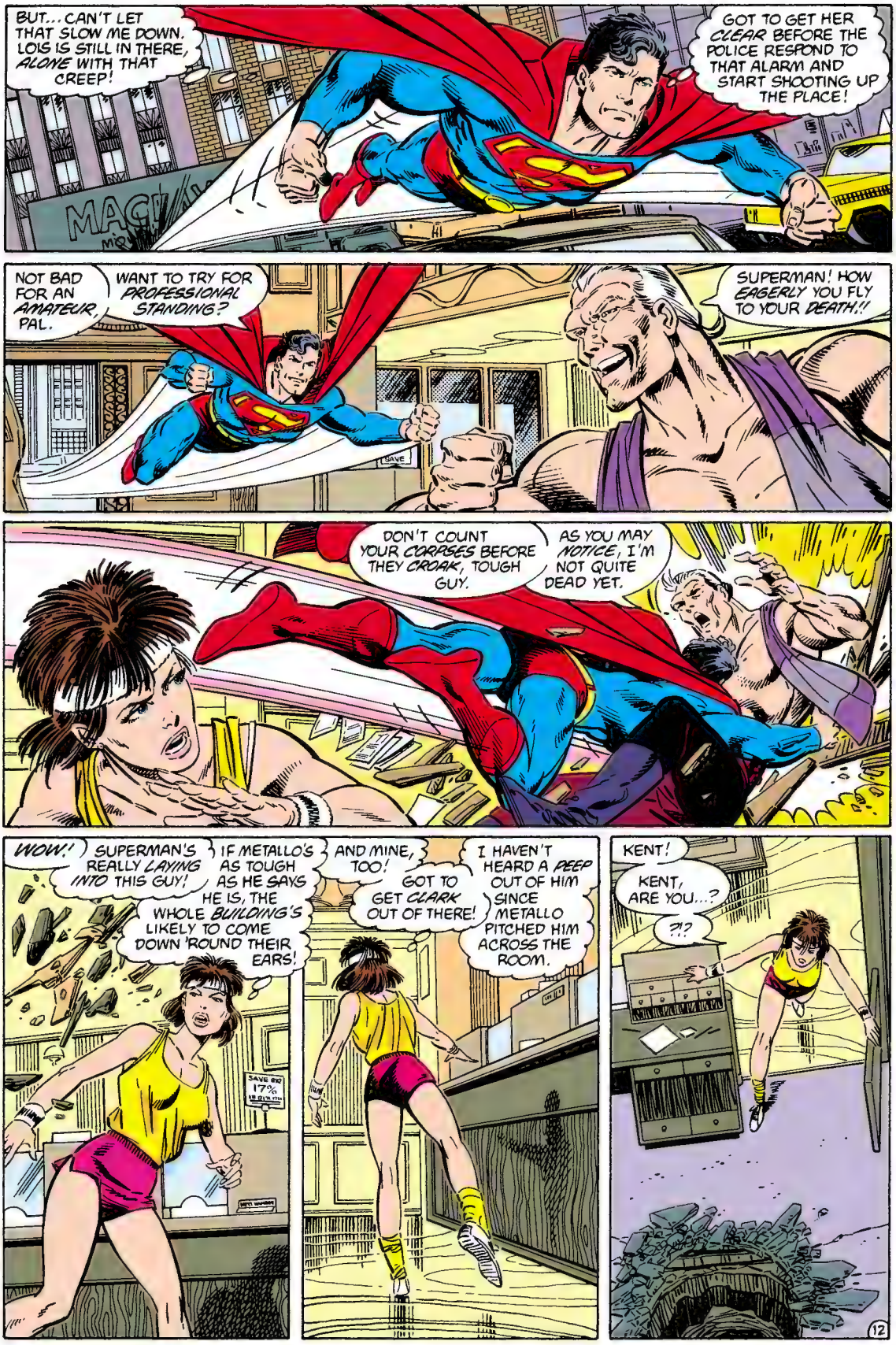

FOUR MINUTES CAN BE A LIFETIME, KENT. HOW LONG DID IT TAKE FOR THE HINDENBURG TO BLOW UP? FOR OSWALD TO SHOOT KENNEDY?
FOR SUPERMAN TO RESCUE THE HOSTAGES IN IMRAHAN?
I STAND CHASTISED.
ANYWAY... THANKS FOR WAITING SO LONG.
DON'T BE CUTE, KENT. YOU'RE HARD ENOUGH TO RESIST WITHOUT THOSE PUPPY-DOG LOOKS.
I ONLY WAITED BECAUSE YOU WORKED SO HARD TO CONVINCE ME TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING... WELL, I FIGURED YOU'D EARNED FOUR MINUTES' WORTH OF BROWNIE POINTS.
THANKS.
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU AGREED TO COME, LOIS.
AND I'M ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO HEAR I'M SO HARD TO RESIST.
YEAH, WELL DON'T GET ALL EXCITED, CLARKIE-BOY.
DENIAL BUILDS CHARACTER, AND I'M GONNA BE DENYING YOU FOR A LOOOOONG TIME.
YOU DON'T MIND, THOUGH, IF I CONTINUE MY EFFORTS TO WEAR DOWN YOUR RESISTANCE?
IT'S YOUR LIFE, KENT. BUT UNLESS YOU KNOW OF SOME MAGICAL WAY TO TRANSFORM YOURSELF, SO YOU'RE NO LONGER THE WEASEL WHO BEAT ME TO THE FIRST EXCLUSIVE ON SUPERMAN...
...WELL, JUST DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH!
OH, I CAN HOLD MY BREATH A VERY LONG TIME, LOIS.
AND, HEY, YOU'RE ALREADY CALLING ME A WEASEL. I CONSIDER THAT A STEP UP FROM SWINE.
SUIT YOURSELF, KENT.
NOW, C'MON, BIG BOY. LET'S SEE YOU WORK UP A LITTLE SWEAT!
IT'S TOUGH PLAYING THIS WAITING GAME WITH LOIS. SHE'S EASILY THE MOST VIVACIOUS WOMAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.
AND I KNOW SHE'D JUST FALL INTO MY ARMS IF SHE KNEW I'M ALSO SUPERMAN...
...BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY. IF I'M GOING TO WIN HER, IT'S GOT TO BE AS ME, AS CLARK KENT.
BBRRAAAANNGG
WHAT THE...?!?
7

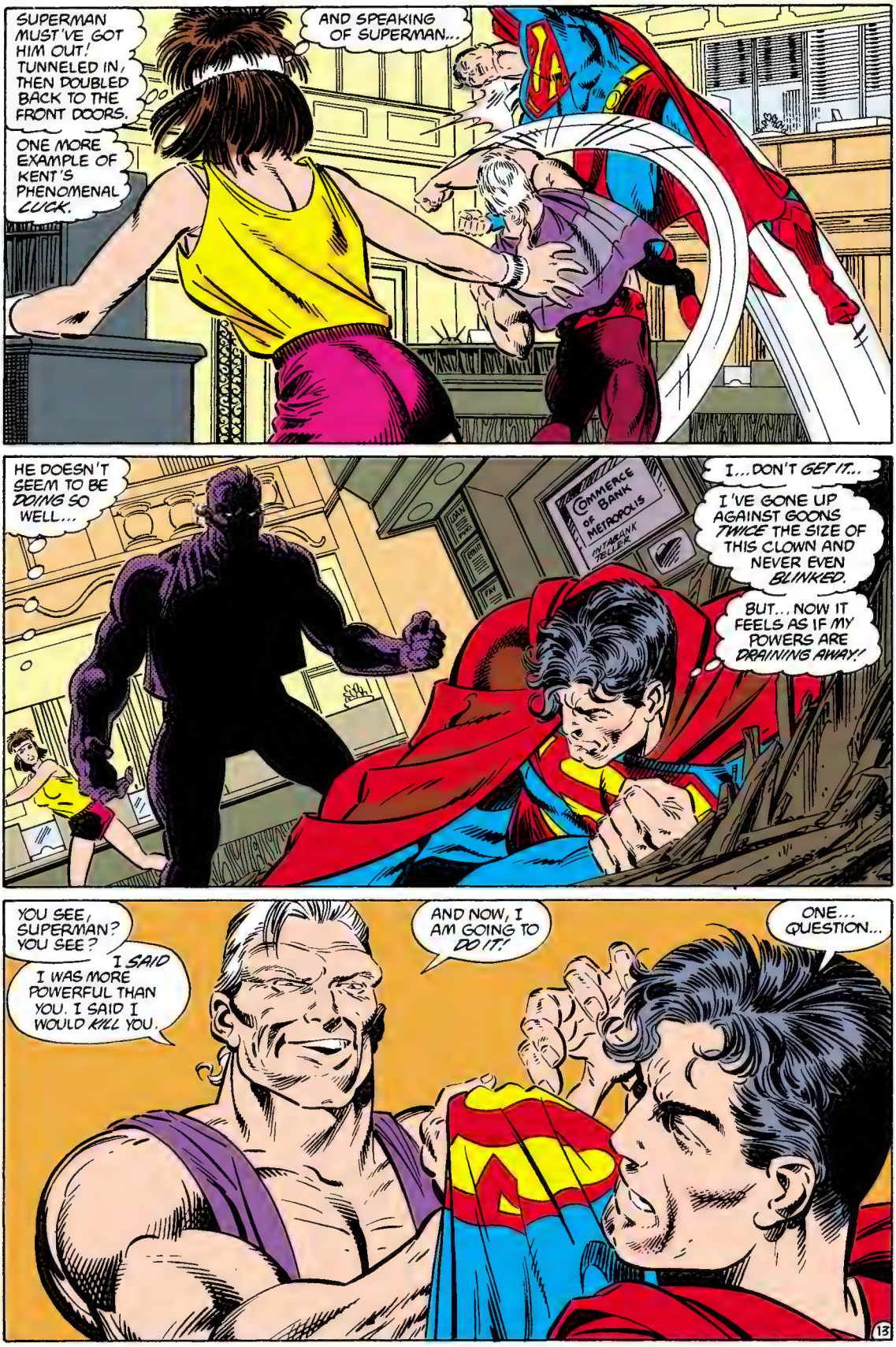

THE AUTOMATIC ALARM AT THE COMMERCE BANK!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY COULDN'T WAIT 'TIL MONDAY TO MAKE A WITHDRAWAL.
C'MON, KENT!
NOW, LOIS, YOU KNOW MR. WHITE HAS WARNED YOU REPEATEDLY ABOUT RISKING YOUR PRETTY NECK TO GET A STORY.
THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE ARMED MEN INSIDE THAT BANK!
AND YOU KNOW PERRY WHITE WAS THE GREATEST AMBULANCE CHASER OF HIS DAY, KENT.
HE DOESN'T REALLY EXPECT US TO SIT ON OUR HANDS WHILE THE TV BOYS BEAT US TO THE HOT STORIES.
NOW COME ON-- AND KEEP QUIET, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
LOOK! LOOK AT THE OUTER DOORS!
COMMERCE BANK OF
THEY'VE BEEN WRENCHED OFF THEIR HINGES! BENT ALL OUT OF SHAPE!
WOW! WHO-EVER'S IN HERE, HE MUST BE ALMOST AS POWERFUL AS SUPERMAN!
NO, MISS LANE.
MORE POWERFUL!
MUCH, MUCH MORE POWERFUL!
HEY!!
8


WHO IS THIS GUY?
HE'S BIG AS A HOUSE!
AND HE'S HURTING LOIS!
GOT TO DO SOMETHING.
DON'T DARE USE SUPERMAN'S STRENGTH...
BUT, LUCKILY, CLARK KENT "KEEPS IN SHAPE."
SHUNK!
30% printed in Englan
FOOL!!
UNGH!!
I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL THAT BLOW, BUT I'VE GOT TO PRETEND I DID. ROLL WITH IT.
IF I RESIST THE FORCE OF HIS SWING, HE'LL SHATTER HIS HAND!
IT ALSO GIVES ME THE CHANCE TO LET THE IMPACT "HURL" ME ACROSS THE BANK...
THERE'S STILL TIME
HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS
11.3%
...WHERE I CAN LAND OUT OF SIGHT, BEHIND THE COUNTER!
9

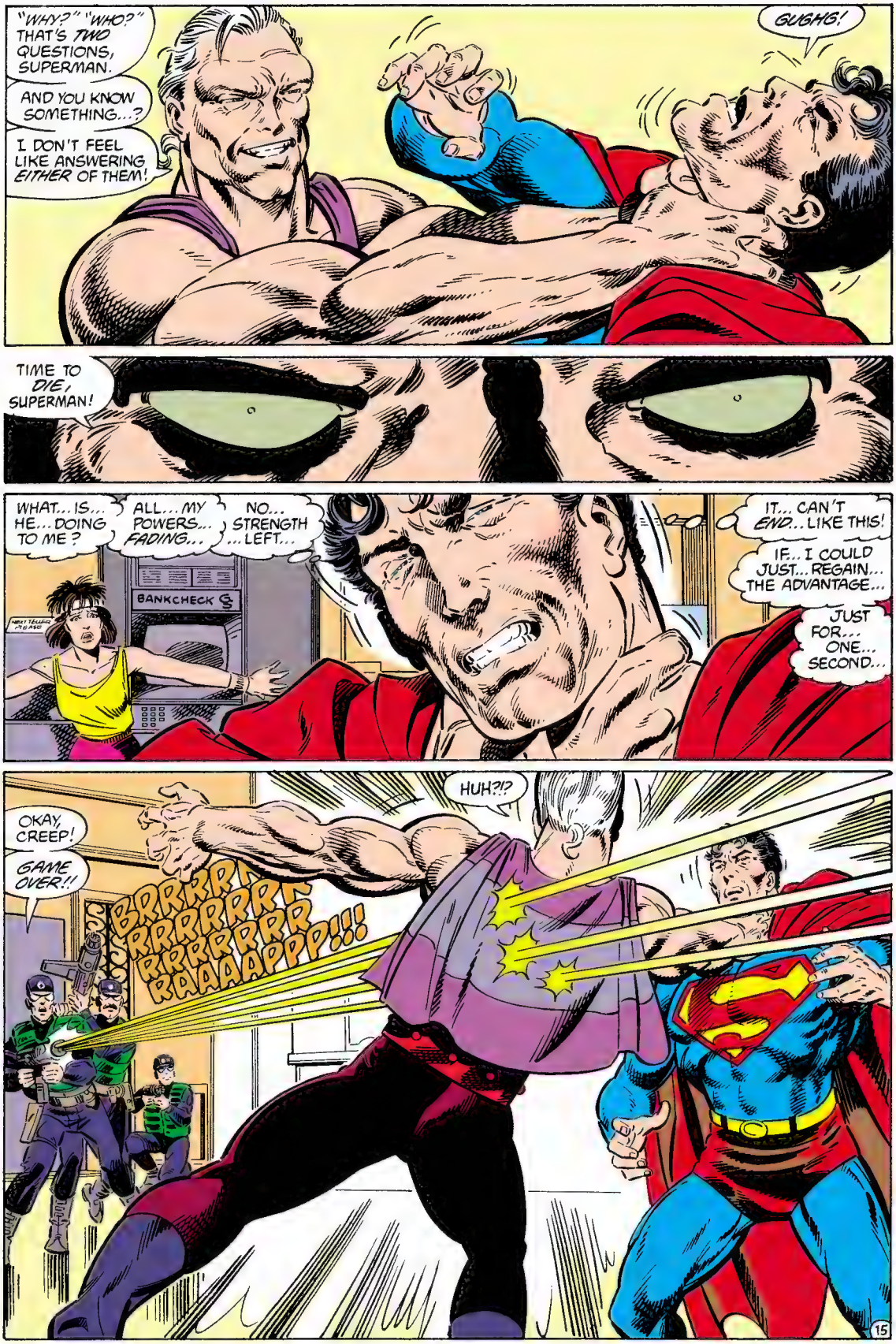

DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID, KENT?
OH, YES. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. LOIS LANE AND CLARK KENT. CRUSADING WRITERS FOR THE DAILY PLANET.
WELL, YOU'VE BOTH LUCKED INTO THE ULTIMATE STORY, THIS TIME.
THE STORY OF METALLO!
THE MAN WHO'S GONNA KILL SUPERMAN!!
"METALLO"?
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
WHERE THE HECK DID YOU PICK UP A CORNBALL NAME LIKE THAT?
STEADY, NOW! DO NOT EXERT YOURSELF.
NOT YET.
MY METALLO.
MY TRIUMPH!!
DON'T MOCK ME, LANE.
I WASN'T JOKING WHEN I SAID I'M AS POWERFUL AS SUPERMAN!
ONE TINY SQUEEZE AND KENT WILL BE WRITING YOUR OBITUARY!
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
PUT HER DOWN, MISTER.
NOW!
HAVE YOU OPENED YOUR IRA YET?
SUPERMAN!
I KNEW YOU'D COME! BREAKING INTO THIS BANK WAS BOUND TO LURE YOU HERE!
10

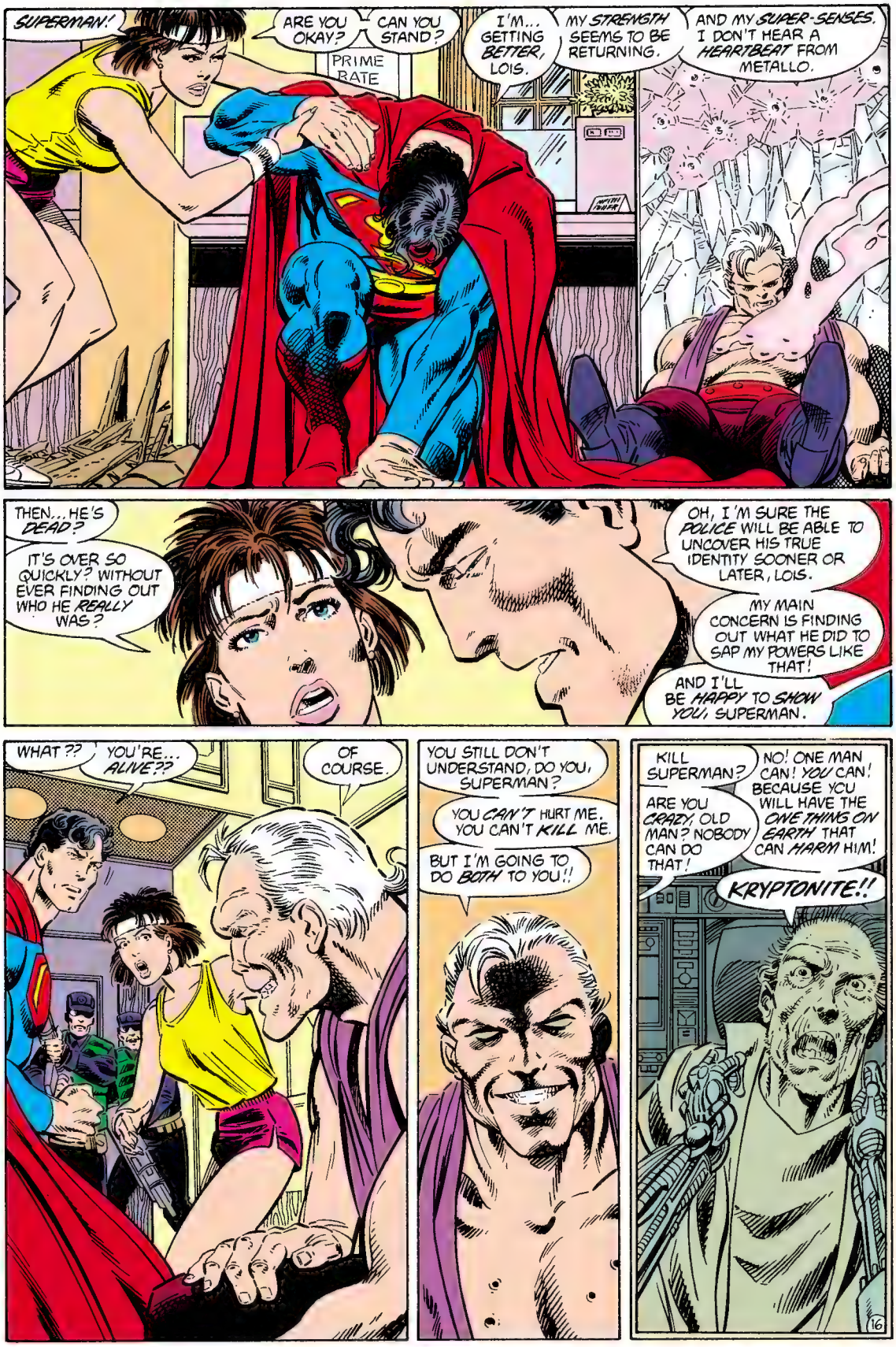
ALWAYS GLAD TO BE OBLIGING.
NOW, WHAT SAY YOU AND I TAKE A LITTLE STROLL DOWN TO THE NEAREST PRECINCT HOUSE...
OF COURSE, SUPERMAN.
ANYTHING YOU SAY.
BUT FIRST...
KROM
WHONG!
...WOW...
HE...MUST'VE BEEN PULLING HIS PUNCH BEFORE.
CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I WAS HIT SO HARD!
IT WAS... ALMOST AS IF MY INVULNERABILITY FADED ON ME, FOR JUST A MOMENT THERE.
I STILL FEEL A LITTLE DIZZY...
FRAGILE
11

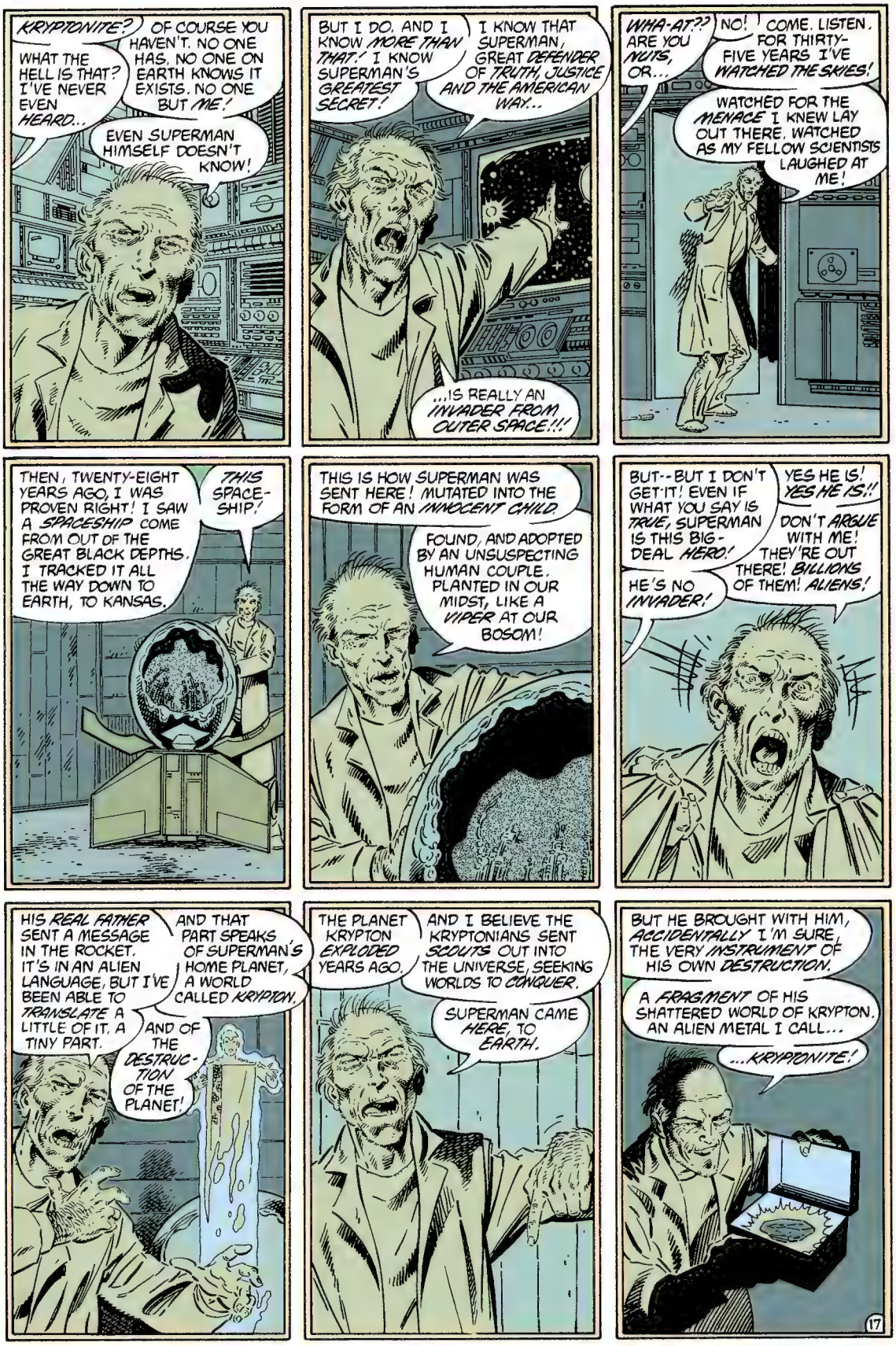

BUT... CAN'T LET THAT SLOW ME DOWN. LOIS IS STILL IN THERE, ALONE WITH THAT CREEP!
GOT TO GET HER CLEAR BEFORE THE POLICE RESPOND TO THAT ALARM AND START SHOOTING UP THE PLACE!
NOT BAD FOR AN AMATEUR, PAL.
WANT TO TRY FOR PROFESSIONAL STANDING?
SUPERMAN! HOW EAGERLY YOU FLY TO YOUR DEATH!!
DON'T COUNT YOUR CORPSES BEFORE THEY CROAK, TOUGH GUY.
AS YOU MAY NOTICE, I'M NOT QUITE DEAD YET.
WOW!
SUPERMAN'S REALLY LAYING INTO THIS GUY!
IF METALLO'S AS TOUGH AS HE SAYS HE IS, THE WHOLE BUILDING'S LIKELY TO COME DOWN 'ROUND THEIR EARS!
AND MINE, TOO!
GOT TO GET CLARK OUT OF THERE!
I HAVEN'T HEARD A PEEP OUT OF HIM SINCE METALLO PITCHED HIM ACROSS THE ROOM.
KENT!
KENT, ARE YOU...?
?!?
12

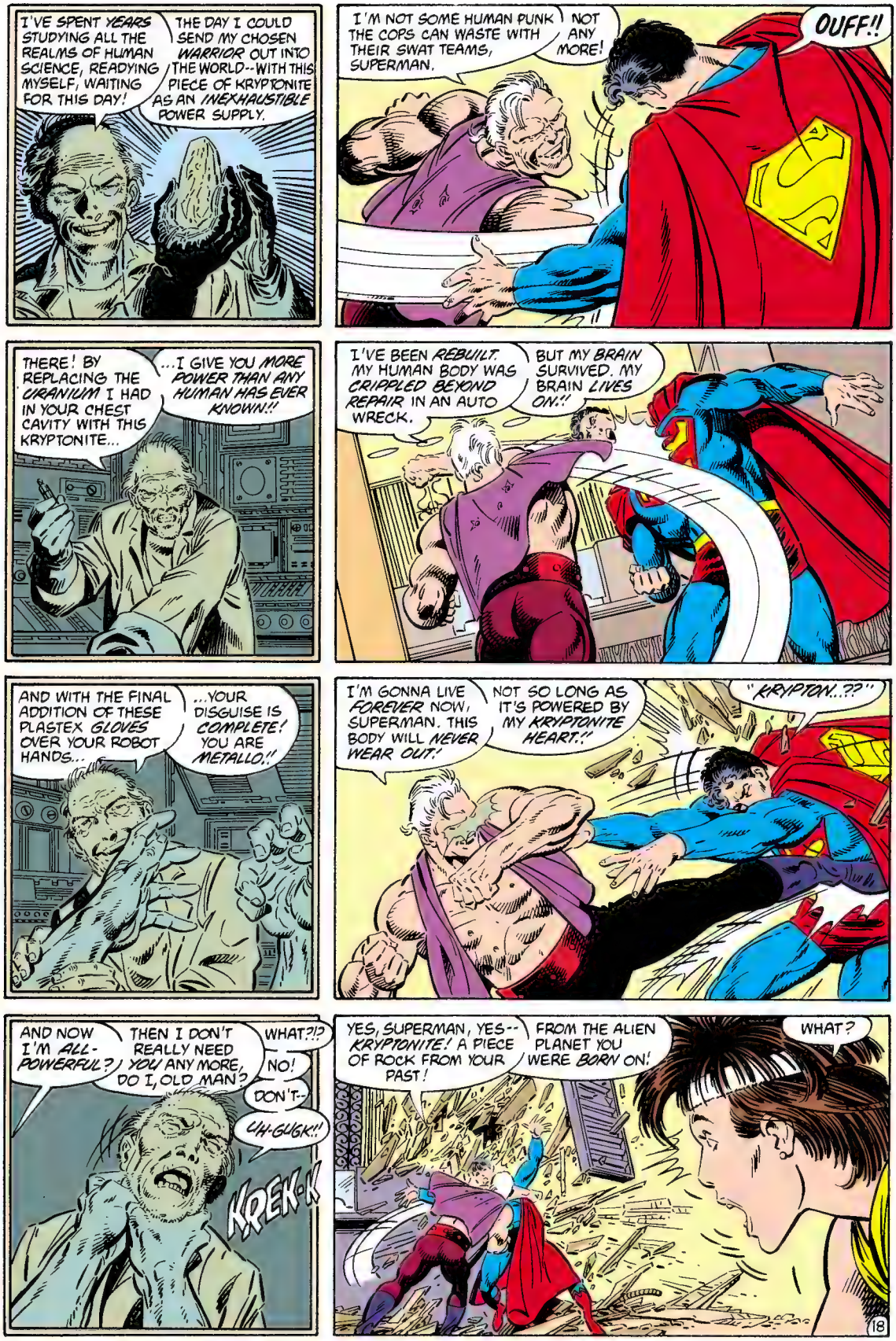

SUPERMAN MUST'VE GOT HIM OUT! TUNNELED IN, THEN DOUBLED BACK TO THE FRONT DOORS.
ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF KENT'S PHENOMENAL LUCK.
AND SPEAKING OF SUPERMAN...
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING SO WELL...
COMMERCE BANK OF METROPOLIS
I...DON'T GET IT...
I'VE GONE UP AGAINST GOONS TWICE THE SIZE OF THIS CLOWN AND NEVER EVEN BLINKED.
BUT... NOW IT FEELS AS IF MY POWERS ARE DRAINING AWAY!
YOU SEE, SUPERMAN? YOU SEE?
I SAID I WAS MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU. I SAID I WOULD KILL YOU.
AND NOW, I AM GOING TO DO IT!
ONE... QUESTION...
13

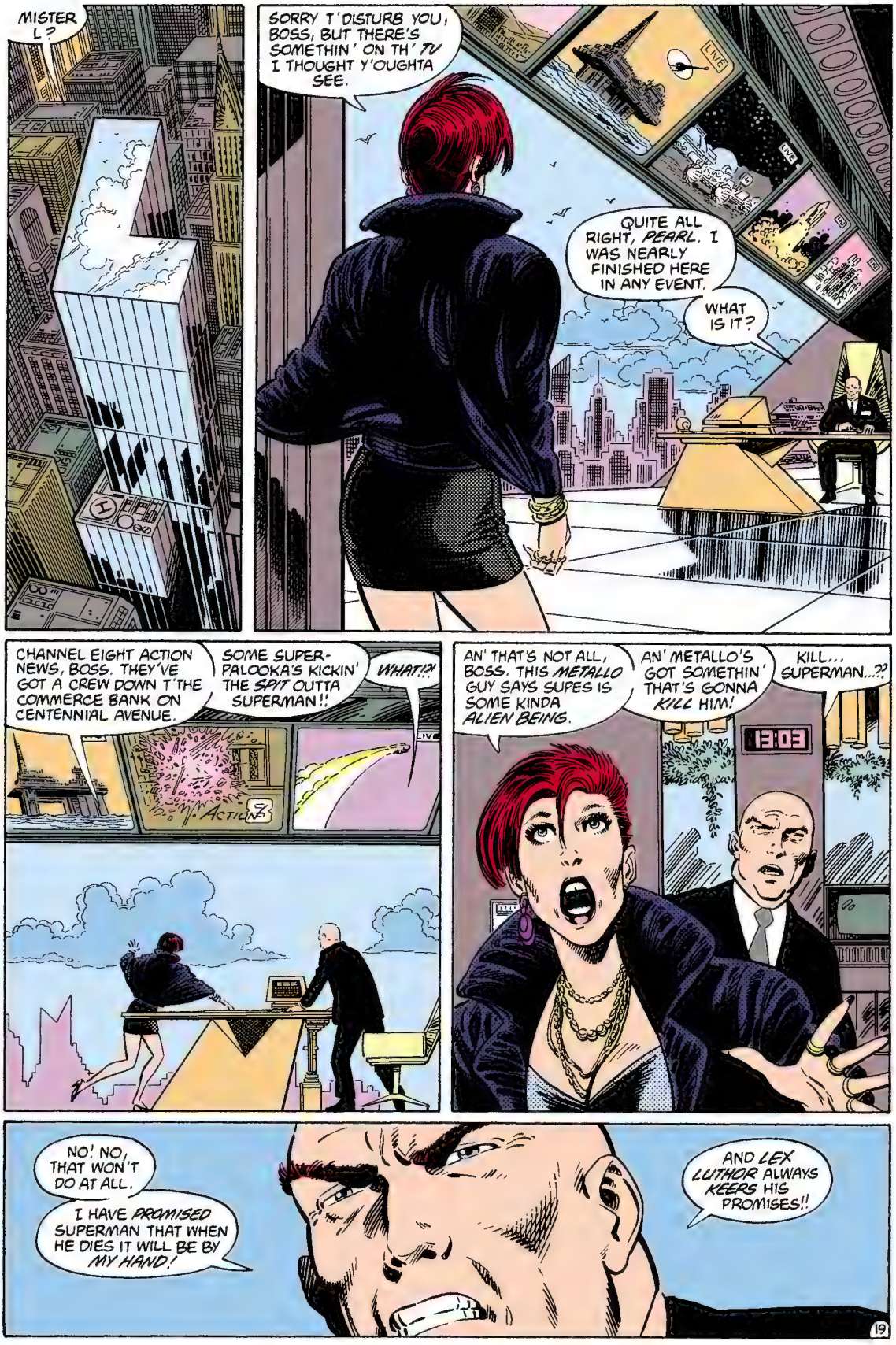
WHY??
WHAT...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?
I HAVE SAVED YOU! YOU ARE REBORN!
I DON'T KNOW YOU. I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE.
LOOK! LOOK AT YOURSELF!
STRONG! POWERFUL!
WHY ATTACK ME? WHY TRY TO KILL ME?
MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER HUMAN!
MORE POWERFUL THAN SUPERMAN HIMSELF!
WHO ARE YOU, METALLO?
WHO??
AND SOON, SOON, YOU WILL UNLEASH YOUR POWER!
YOU WILL KILL SUPERMAN!!
14


"WHY?" "WHO?" THAT'S TWO QUESTIONS, SUPERMAN.
AND YOU KNOW SOMETHING...?
I DON'T FEEL LIKE ANSWERING EITHER OF THEM!
GUGHG!
TIME TO DIE, SUPERMAN!
WHAT... IS... HE... DOING TO ME?
ALL... MY POWERS... FADING...
NO... STRENGTH ...LEFT...
BANKCHECK
IT... CAN'T END... LIKE THIS!
IF... I COULD JUST... REGAIN... THE ADVANTAGE...
JUST FOR... ONE... SECOND...
HUH?!?
OKAY, CREEP!
GAME OVER!!
BRRRRR RRRRRRRR RRRRRRR RAAAAPPP!!!
15

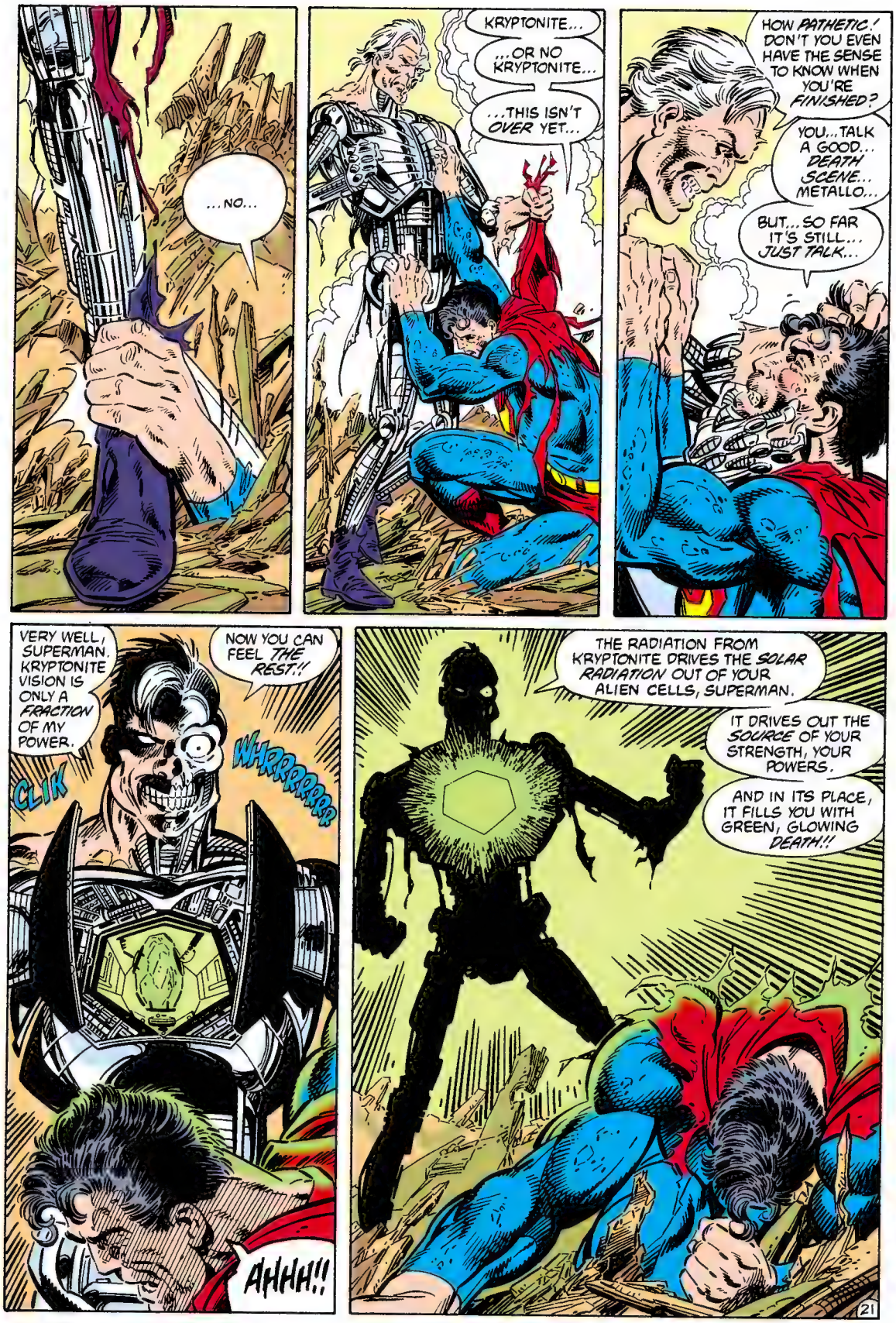

SUPERMAN!
ARE YOU OKAY?
CAN YOU STAND?
PRIME RATE
I'M... GETTING BETTER, LOIS.
MY STRENGTH SEEMS TO BE RETURNING.
AND MY SUPER-SENSES, I DON'T HEAR A HEARTBEAT FROM METALLO.
THEN.. HE'S DEAD?
IT'S OVER SO QUICKLY? WITHOUT EVER FINDING OUT WHO HE REALLY WAS?
OH, I'M SURE THE POLICE WILL BE ABLE TO UNCOVER HIS TRUE IDENTITY SOONER OR LATER, LOIS.
MY MAIN CONCERN IS FINDING OUT WHAT HE DID TO SAP MY POWERS LIKE THAT!
AND I'LL BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU, SUPERMAN.
WHAT??
YOU'RE... ALIVE??
OF COURSE.
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU, SUPERMAN?
YOU CAN'T HURT ME. YOU CAN'T KILL ME.
BUT I'M GOING TO DO BOTH TO YOU!!
KILL SUPERMAN?
ARE YOU CRAZY, OLD MAN? NOBODY CAN DO THAT!
NO! ONE MAN CAN! YOU CAN! BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE THE ONE THING ON EARTH THAT CAN HARM HIM!
KRYPTONITE!!
16

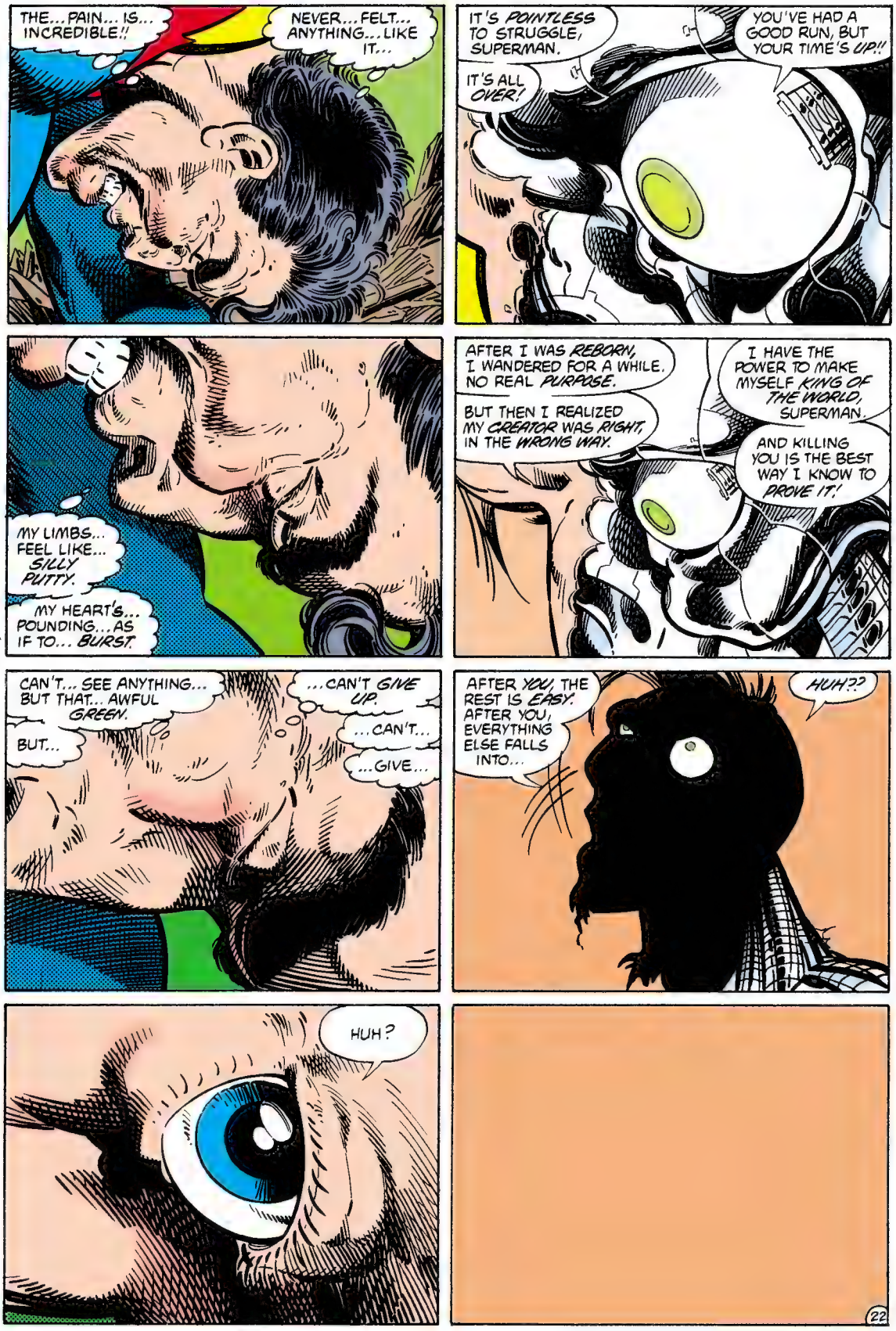

KRYPTONITE?
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT? I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD..
OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T. NO ONE HAS, NO ONE ON EARTH KNOWS IT EXISTS. NO ONE BUT ME!
EVEN SUPERMAN HIMSELF DOESN'T KNOW!
BUT I DO. AND I KNOW MORE THAN THAT! I KNOW SUPERMAN'S GREATEST SECRET!
I KNOW THAT SUPERMAN, GREAT DEFENDER OF TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY...
...IS REALLY AN INVADER FROM OUTER SPACE!!!
WHA-AT?? ARE YOU NUTS, OR...
NO! COME. LISTEN. FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS I'VE WATCHED THE SKIES!
WATCHED FOR THE MENACE I KNEW LAY OUT THERE. WATCHED AS MY FELLOW SCIENTISTS LAUGHED AT ME!
THEN, TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO, I WAS PROVEN RIGHT! I SAW A SPACESHIP COME FROM OUT OF THE GREAT BLACK DEPTHS. I TRACKED IT ALL THE WAY DOWN TO EARTH, TO KANSAS.
THIS SPACE-SHIP!
THIS IS HOW SUPERMAN WAS SENT HERE! MUTATED INTO THE FORM OF AN INNOCENT CHILD.
FOUND, AND ADOPTED BY AN UNSUSPECTING HUMAN COUPLE. PLANTED IN OUR MIDST, LIKE A VIPER AT OUR BOSOM!
BUT--BUT I DON'T GET IT! EVEN IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, SUPERMAN IS THIS BIG-DEAL HERO!
YES HE IS! YES HE IS!!
DON'T ARGUE WITH ME! THEY'RE OUT THERE! BILLIONS OF THEM! ALIENS!
HE'S NO INVADER!
HIS REAL FATHER SENT A MESSAGE IN THE ROCKET. IT'S IN AN ALIEN LANGUAGE, BUT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TRANSLATE A LITTLE OF IT, A TINY PART.
AND THAT PART SPEAKS OF SUPERMAN'S HOME PLANET, A WORLD CALLED KRYPTON.
AND OF THE DESTRUC-TION OF THE PLANET!
THE PLANET KRYPTON EXPLODED YEARS AGO.
AND I BELIEVE THE KRYPTONIANS SENT SCOUTS OUT INTO THE UNIVERSE, SEEKING WORLDS TO CONQUER.
SUPERMAN CAME HERE, TO EARTH.
BUT HE BROUGHT WITH HIM, ACCIDENTALLY I'M SURE, THE VERY INSTRUMENT OF HIS OWN DESTRUCTION.
A FRAGMENT OF HIS SHATTERED WORLD OF KRYPTON. AN ALIEN METAL I CALL...
...KRYPTONITE!
17

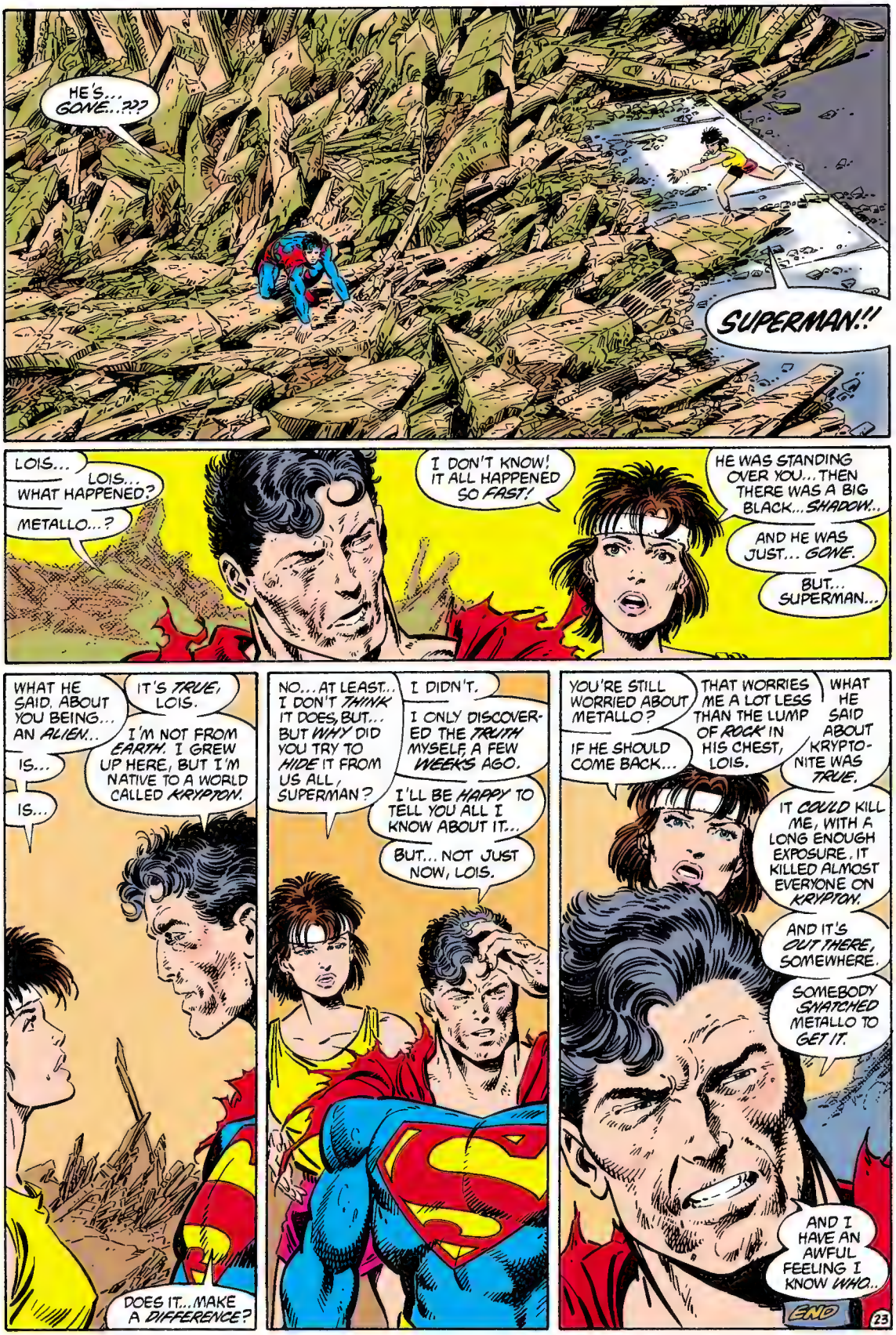

I'VE SPENT YEARS STUDYING ALL THE REALMS OF HUMAN SCIENCE, READYING MYSELF, WAITING FOR THIS DAY!
THE DAY I COULD SEND MY CHOSEN WARRIOR OUT INTO THE WORLD--WITH THIS PIECE OF KRYPTONITE AS AN INEXHAUSTIBLE POWER SUPPLY.
I'M NOT SOME HUMAN PUNK THE COPS CAN WASTE WITH THEIR SWAT TEAMS, SUPERMAN.
NOT ANY MORE!
OUFF!!
THERE! BY REPLACING THE URANIUM I HAD IN YOUR CHEST CAVITY WITH THIS KRYPTONITE...
...I GIVE YOU MORE POWER THAN ANY HUMAN HAS EVER KNOWN!!
I'VE BEEN REBUILT. MY HUMAN BODY WAS CRIPPLED BEYOND REPAIR IN AN AUTO WRECK.
BUT MY BRAIN SURVIVED. MY BRAIN LIVES ON!!
AND WITH THE FINAL ADDITION OF THESE PLASTEX GLOVES OVER YOUR ROBOT HANDS...
...YOUR DISGUISE IS COMPLETE! YOU ARE METALLO!!
I'M GONNA LIVE FOREVER NOW, SUPERMAN. THIS BODY WILL NEVER WEAR OUT!
NOT SO LONG AS IT'S POWERED BY MY KRYPTONITE HEART!!
"KRYPTON...??"
AND NOW I'M ALL-POWERFUL?
THEN I DON'T REALLY NEED YOU ANY MORE, DO I, OLD MAN?
WHAT?!?
NO!
DON'T--
UH-GUGK!!
KREK-K
YES, SUPERMAN, YES--KRYPTONITE! A PIECE OF ROCK FROM YOUR PAST!
FROM THE ALIEN PLANET YOU WERE BORN ON!
WHAT?
18


MISTER L?
SORRY T'DISTURB YOU, BOSS, BUT THERE'S SOMETHIN' ON TH' TV I THOUGHT Y'OUGHTA SEE.
LIVE
QUITE ALL RIGHT, PEARL. I WAS NEARLY FINISHED HERE IN ANY EVENT.
WHAT IS IT?
CHANNEL EIGHT ACTION NEWS, BOSS. THEY'VE GOT A CREW DOWN T'THE COMMERCE BANK ON CENTENNIAL AVENUE.
SOME SUPER-PALOOKA'S KICKIN' THE SPIT OUTTA SUPERMAN!!
WHAT!?!
AN' THAT'S NOT ALL, BOSS. THIS METALLO GUY SAYS SUPES IS SOME KINDA ALIEN BEING.
AN' METALLO'S GOT SOMETHIN' THAT'S GONNA KILL HIM!
KILL... SUPERMAN...??
13:03
NO! NO, THAT WON'T DO AT ALL.
I HAVE PROMISED SUPERMAN THAT WHEN HE DIES IT WILL BE BY MY HAND!
AND LEX LUTHOR ALWAYS KEERS HIS PROMISES!!
19

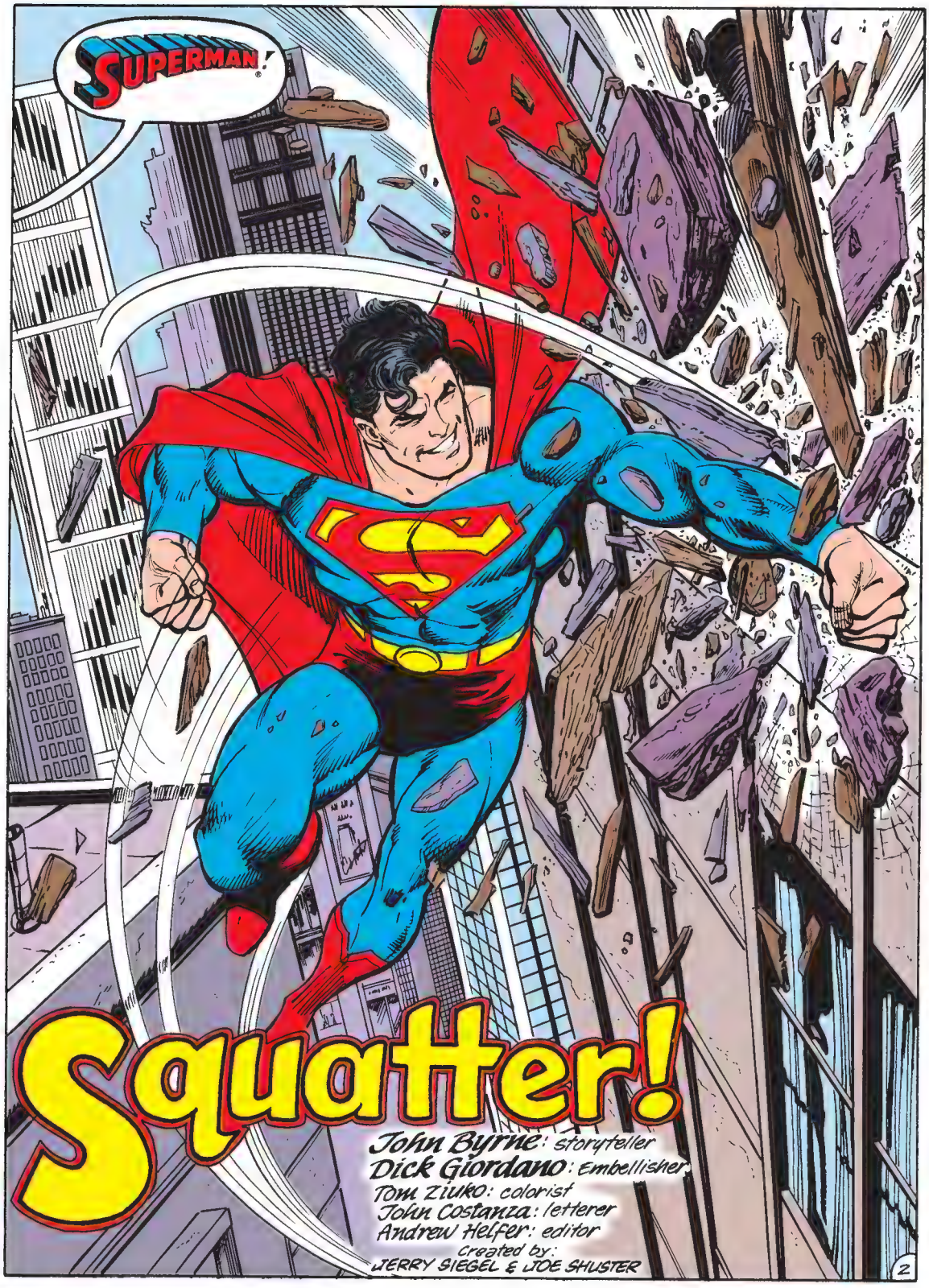
SUPERMAN!!
SUPERMAN!!
C'MON, MISS LANE! YOU GOTTA GET CLEAR!
WITH THE MESS THEM TWO HAVE MADE OF THE BANK BUILDING, IT AIN'T GONNA BE STANDIN' MUCH...
...LONGER!!
S-SUPERMAN...
SUPERMAN?
...SUPERMAN...
HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
I'VE WON!! I'VE BEATEN HIM!!
20


...NO...
KRYPTONITE...
...OR NO KRYPTONITE...
...THIS ISN'T OVER YET...
HOW PATHETIC! DON'T YOU EVEN HAVE THE SENSE TO KNOW WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED?
YOU...TALK A GOOD... DEATH SCENE... METALLO...
BUT...SO FAR IT'S STILL... JUST TALK...
VERY WELL, SUPERMAN. KRYPTONITE VISION IS ONLY A FRACTION OF MY POWER.
NOW YOU CAN FEEL THE REST!!
CLIK
WHRRRRRRR
AHHH!!
THE RADIATION FROM KRYPTONITE DRIVES THE SOLAR RADIATION OUT OF YOUR ALIEN CELLS, SUPERMAN.
IT DRIVES OUT THE SOURCE OF YOUR STRENGTH, YOUR POWERS.
AND IN ITS PLACE, IT FILLS YOU WITH GREEN, GLOWING DEATH!!
21

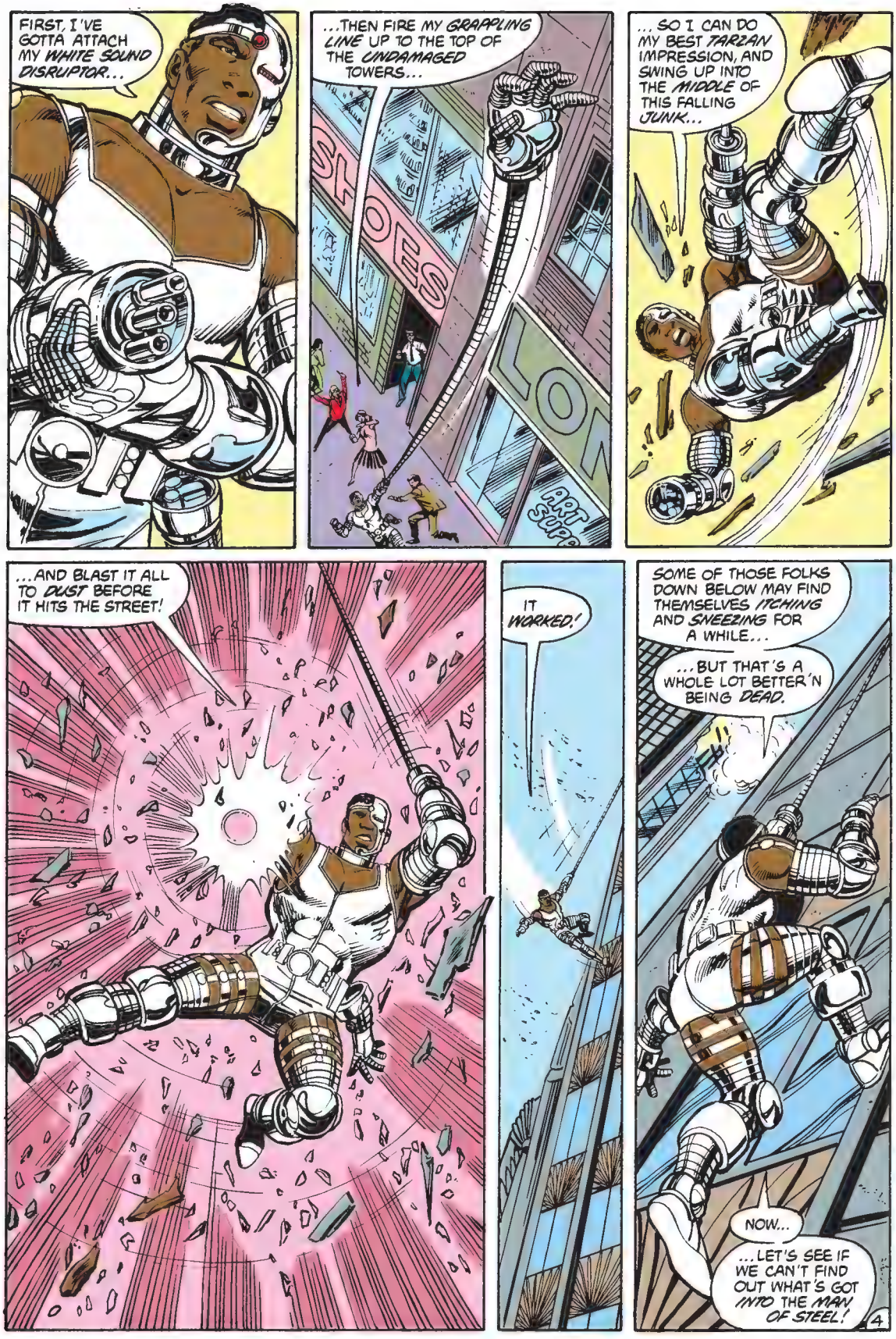

THE... PAIN... IS... INCREDIBLE!!
NEVER... FELT... ANYTHING... LIKE IT...
IT'S POINTLESS TO STRUGGLE, SUPERMAN.
IT'S ALL OVER!
YOU'VE HAD A GOOD RUN, BUT YOUR TIME'S UP!!
MY LIMBS... FEEL LIKE... SILLY PUTTY.
MY HEART'S... POUNDING... AS IF TO... BURST.
AFTER I WAS REBORN, I WANDERED FOR A WHILE. NO REAL PURPOSE.
BUT THEN I REALIZED MY CREATOR WAS RIGHT, IN THE WRONG WAY.
I HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE MYSELF KING OF THE WORLD, SUPERMAN.
AND KILLING YOU IS THE BEST WAY I KNOW TO PROVE IT!
CAN'T... SEE ANYTHING... BUT THAT... AWFUL GREEN.
BUT...
...CAN'T GIVE UP.
...CAN'T...
...GIVE...
AFTER YOU, THE REST IS EASY. AFTER YOU, EVERYTHING ELSE FALLS INTO...
HUH??
HUH?
22

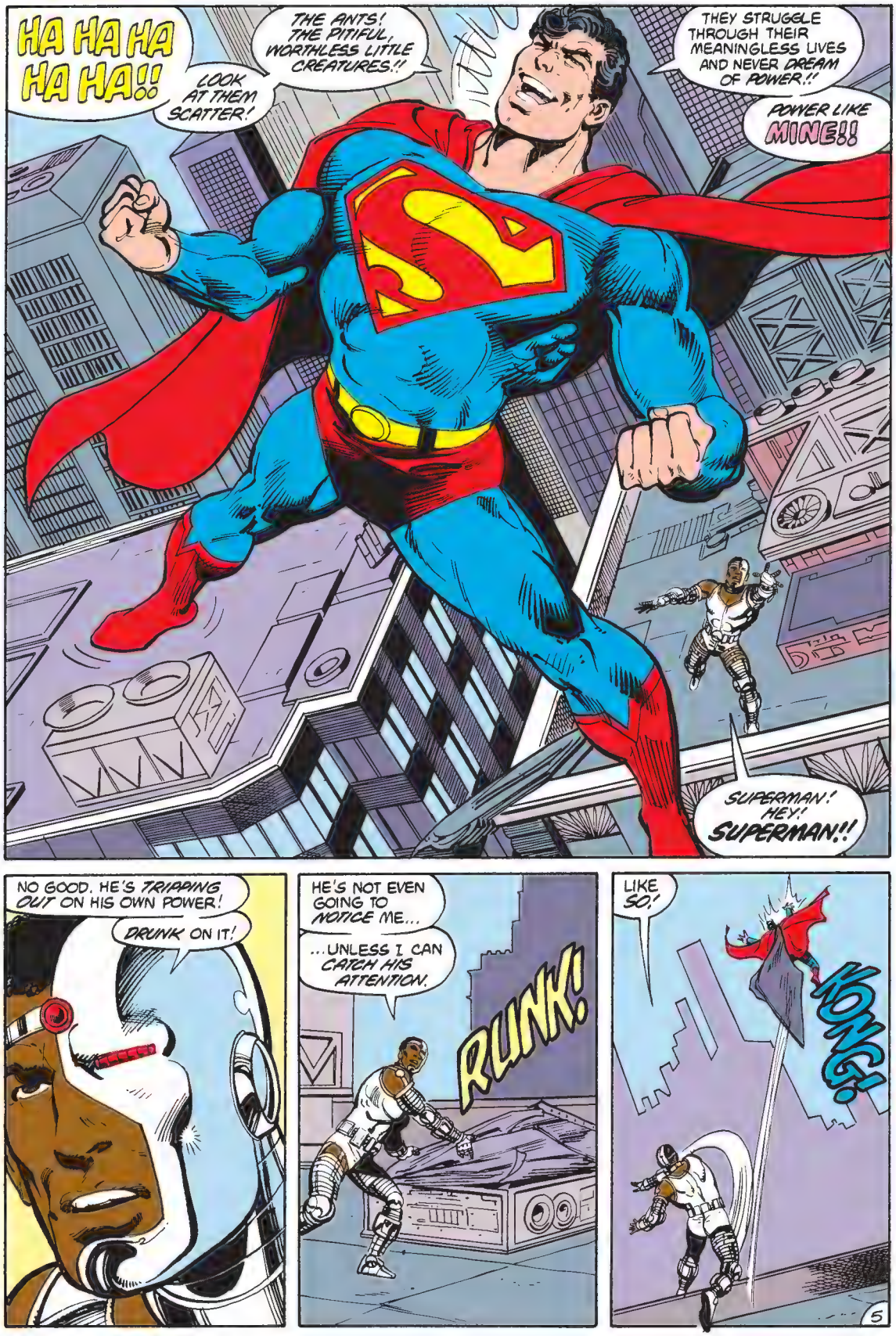

HE'S... GONE...???
SUPERMAN!!
LOIS...
LOIS... WHAT HAPPENED?
METALLO...?
I DON'T KNOW! IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST!
HE WAS STANDING OVER YOU... THEN THERE WAS A BIG BLACK... SHADOW...
AND HE WAS JUST... GONE.
BUT... SUPERMAN...
WHAT HE SAID, ABOUT YOU BEING... AN ALIEN...
IS...
IS...
IT'S TRUE, LOIS.
I'M NOT FROM EARTH. I GREW UP HERE, BUT I'M NATIVE TO A WORLD CALLED KRYPTON.
DOES IT... MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
NO... AT LEAST... I DON'T THINK IT DOES, BUT... BUT WHY DID YOU TRY TO HIDE IT FROM US ALL, SUPERMAN?
I DIDN'T.
I ONLY DISCOVERED THE TRUTH MYSELF A FEW WEEKS AGO.
I'LL BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU ALL I KNOW ABOUT IT...
BUT... NOT JUST NOW, LOIS.
YOU'RE STILL WORRIED ABOUT METALLO?
IF HE SHOULD COME BACK...
THAT WORRIES ME A LOT LESS THAN THE LUMP OF ROCK IN HIS CHEST, LOIS.
WHAT HE SAID ABOUT KRYPTONITE WAS TRUE.
IT COULD KILL ME, WITH A LONG ENOUGH EXPOSURE. IT KILLED ALMOST EVERYONE ON KRYPTON.
AND IT'S OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE.
SOMEBODY SNATCHED METALLO TO GET IT.
AND I HAVE AN AWFUL FEELING I KNOW WHO...
END
23

IT'S AUTUMN IN THE BIG CITY!
HI! I'M CAROL SAMUELS, AND TODAY ON "SKYLINE," WE'LL LOOK AT THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE LARGEST CITY IN THE NATION.
MARLIN'S BOOKS 'n THINGS
A CITY RENOWNED IN SONG AND FABLE. A CITY WITH MORE BUSTLE AND DRIVE THAN ANY TEN OTHER CITIES ROLLED INTO ONE.
THE CITY I'M PROUD TO CALL MY HOME TOWN!
HERE, IN THESE CONSTANTLY THRIVING BY-WAYS, A POPULATION EQUIVALENT TO A MEDIUM-SIZED COUNTRY SHOPS, EATS, LOVES AND LEARNS.
SOME CALL THEM HARD. SOME CALL THEM UNFRIENDLY.
BUT TO A NATIVE, OR A TOURIST WHO KNOWS WHERE TO LOOK, THEY CAN BE THE FRIENDLIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH!
THEY KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN, THESE MODERN CLIFF-DWELLERS--
RED HOTS
--AND THERE'S NOT A LOT IN THE WORLD THAT SURPRISES...
WAIT A MINUTE! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!
CAMERA 2, CAN YOU SEE...
OH, MY GOSH!!
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!
IT'S A BIRD!
IT'S A PLANE!
NO! IT'S...


SUPERMAN!
Squatter!
John Byrne: storyteller
Dick Giordano: embellisher
Tom Ziuko: colorist
John Costanza: letterer
Andrew Helfer: editor
created by:
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
2

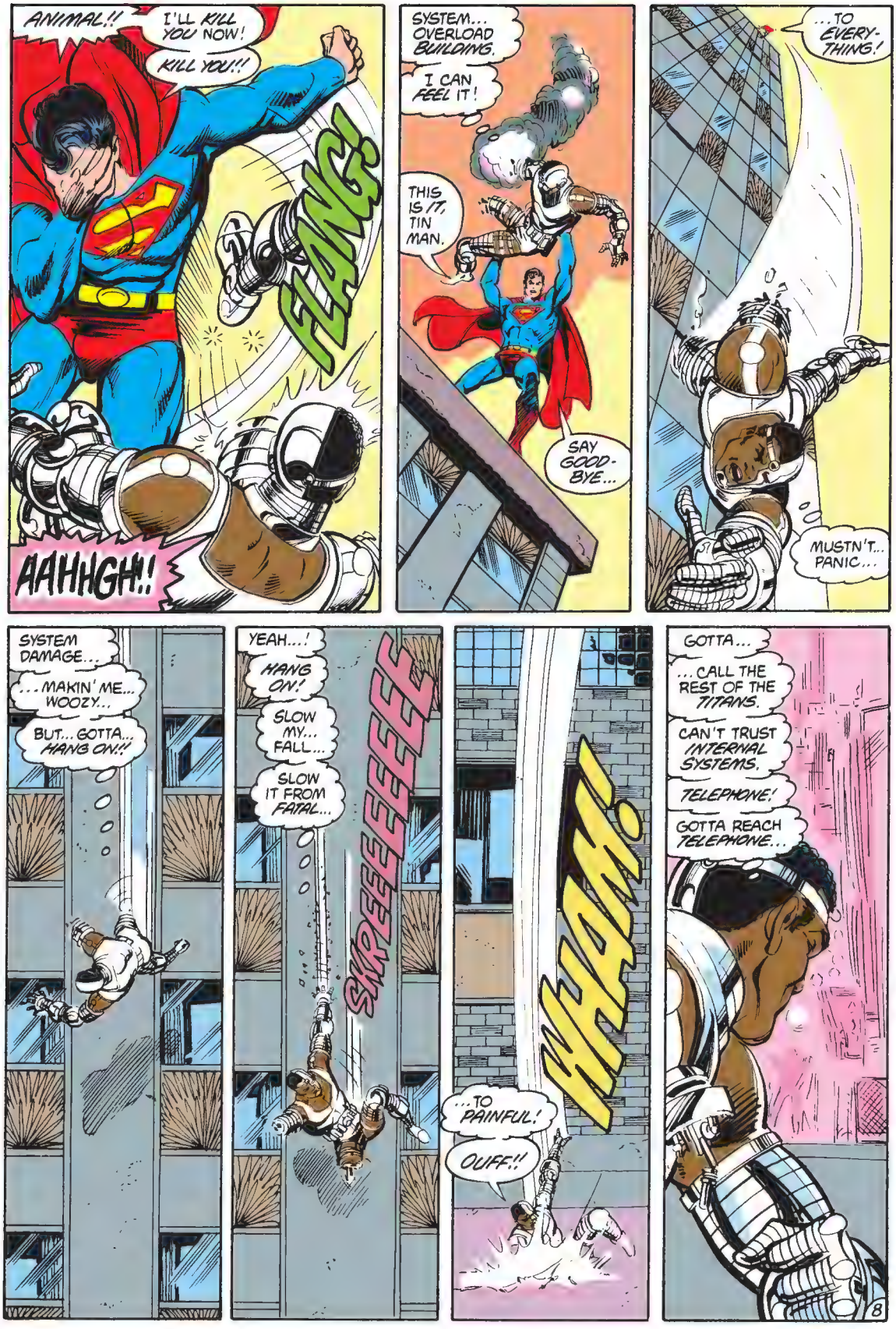
SHOOM!
KRAM!
KRAK!
WHAT... WHAT'S HE DOING?
HE'S SMASHING THROUGH ALL THE SKY-SCRAPERS!!
HE'S GONE CRAZY!!
SUPERMAN HAS GONE MAD!!
LOOK OUT!!
HOLY...!!
TH' WHOLE TOP OF THAT TOWER'S COMIN' DOWN ON TH' STREET!!
THERE'S NO WAY ALL THOSE PEDESTRIANS CAN GET CLEAR IN TIME!
CAN'T SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING?!?
SOMEBODY CAN SURE TRY, MA'AM.
--AND HIS NAME IS CYBORG!!
3


FIRST, I'VE GOTTA ATTACH MY WHITE SOUND DISRUPTOR...
...THEN FIRE MY GRAPPLING LINE UP TO THE TOP OF THE UNDAMAGED TOWERS...
SHOES
... SO I CAN DO MY BEST TARZAN IMPRESSION, AND SWING UP INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS FALLING JUNK...
...AND BLAST IT ALL TO DUST BEFORE IT HITS THE STREET!
IT WORKED!
SOME OF THOSE FOLKS DOWN BELOW MAY FIND THEMSELVES ITCHING AND SNEEZING FOR A WHILE...
...BUT THAT'S A WHOLE LOT BETTER'N BEING DEAD.
NOW...
...LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND OUT WHAT'S GOT INTO THE MAN OF STEEL!
4

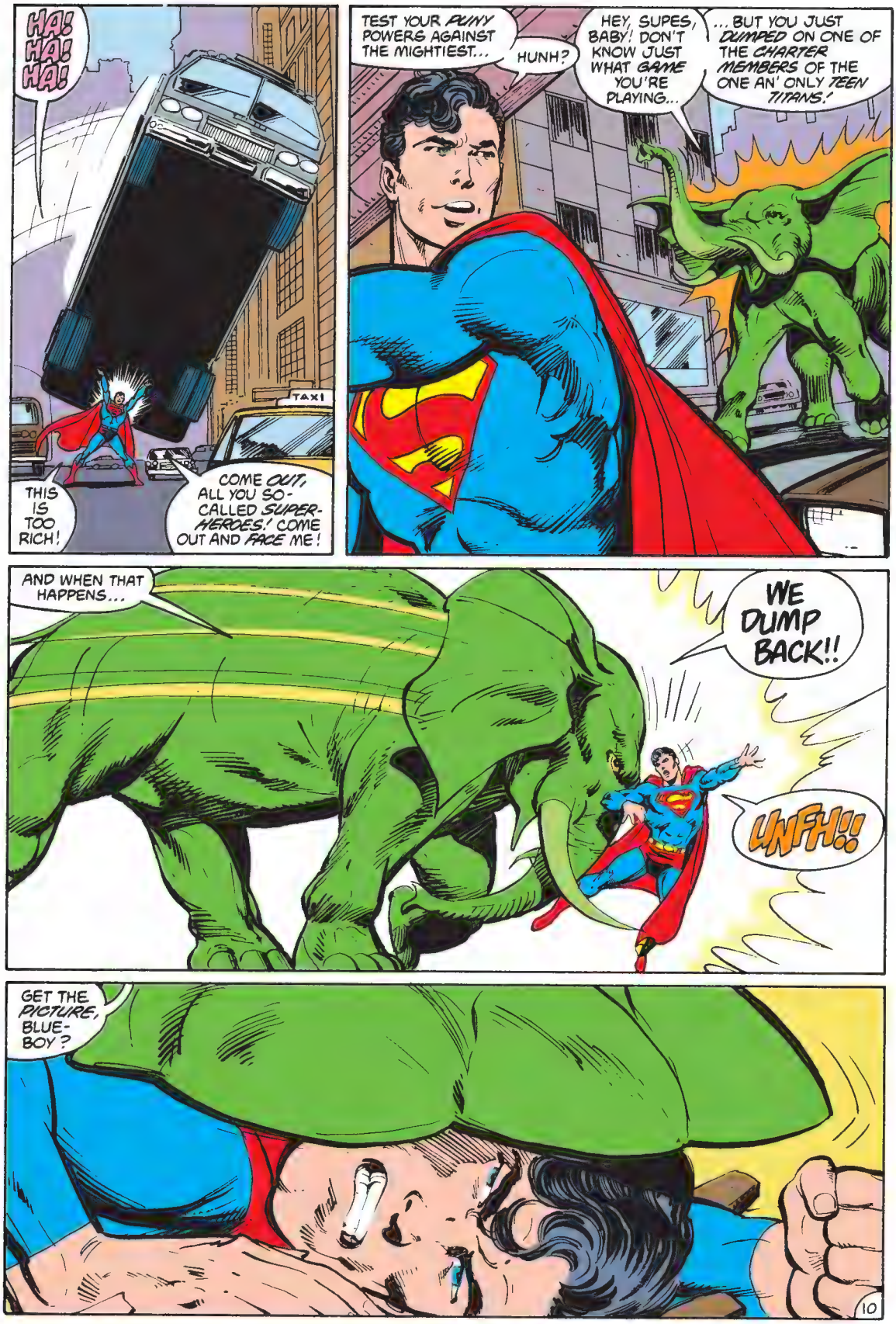

HA HA HA HA HA!!
LOOK AT THEM SCATTER!
THE ANTS! THE PITIFUL, WORTHLESS LITTLE CREATURES!!
THEY STRUGGLE THROUGH THEIR MEANINGLESS LIVES AND NEVER DREAM OF POWER!!
POWER LIKE MINE!!
SUPERMAN! HEY! SUPERMAN!!
NO GOOD. HE'S TRIPPING OUT ON HIS OWN POWER!
DRUNK ON IT!
HE'S NOT EVEN GOING TO NOTICE ME...
...UNLESS I CAN CATCH HIS ATTENTION.
RUNK!
LIKE SO!
KONG!
5

WHO DARES?!?
WHO DARES ATTACK ME?!?!
UH-OH...
SUPERMAN! IT'S ME, CYBORG! DON'T YOU KNOW ME?
TAKE IT EASY, MAN!
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!
HELP ME?
HELP ME?!?
INSOLENT FOOL!!
KRKLLKLK!
YOU'LL EAT THOSE WORDS!
YOU'LL RUE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN!
BEFORE YOU DIE!!
"...RUE...?"
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
I'VE ONLY MET HIM A COUPL'A TIMES BEFORE, BUT...
...HE DOESN'T EVEN SOUND LIKE...
OOFF!!
KRAN
6

YOU STUPID FREAK! DID YOU REALLY THINK YOUR WEAK, MECHANICAL BODY COULD STAND UP AGAINST SUPERMAN'S?
SKTZZAK!
AHHGH!
HE'S--CHOPPED MY ROBOT ARM RIGHT OFF!!
IT DOESN'T REALLY HURT, BUT THAT KIND OF MASSIVE DAMAGE CAN OVER-LOAD MY CYBERNETIC SYSTEMS!
HA HA HA HA!!
BEG, CYBORG!
BEG FOR MERCY! BEG FOR THE EASY DEATH I SHALL NOT GRANT YOU!
HE'S--COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL! HE'S GONNA--
UNGH!
-HE'S GONNA TEAR ME APART LIKE AN OLD TINKER TOY!
GOTTA STOP HIM--
-- BEFORE HE RIPS OFF SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE REPLACED!
CAN YOU FEEL IT YET, CYBORG? CAN YOU FEEL YOUR LIFE SLIPPING AWAY?
FEEL HOW HELPLESS AND TRAPPED YOU ARE INSIDE A BODY THAT GROWS STEADILY WEAKER!
THAT GROWS MORE AND MORE USELESS WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT!!
ONE CHANCE...
...CAN'T HURT HIM... BUT MAYBE WITH... FINGER LASER...
TZAP!
DID IT!
THE SUDDEN BLAST CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD!
7


ANIMAL!!
I'LL KILL YOU NOW!
KILL YOU!!!
FLANG!
AAHHGH!!
SYSTEM... OVERLOAD BUILDING.
I CAN FEEL IT!
THIS IS IT, TIN MAN.
SAY GOOD-BYE...
...TO EVERY-THING!
MUSTN'T... PANIC...
SYSTEM DAMAGE...
...MAKIN' ME... WOOZY...
BUT... GOTTA... HANG ON!!
YEAH...!
HANG ON!
SLOW MY... FALL...
SLOW IT FROM FATAL...
SKREEEEEEE
WHAM!
...TO PAINFUL!
OUFF!!
GOTTA...
...CALL THE REST OF THE TITANS.
CAN'T TRUST INTERNAL SYSTEMS.
TELEPHONE!
GOTTA REACH TELEPHONE...
8

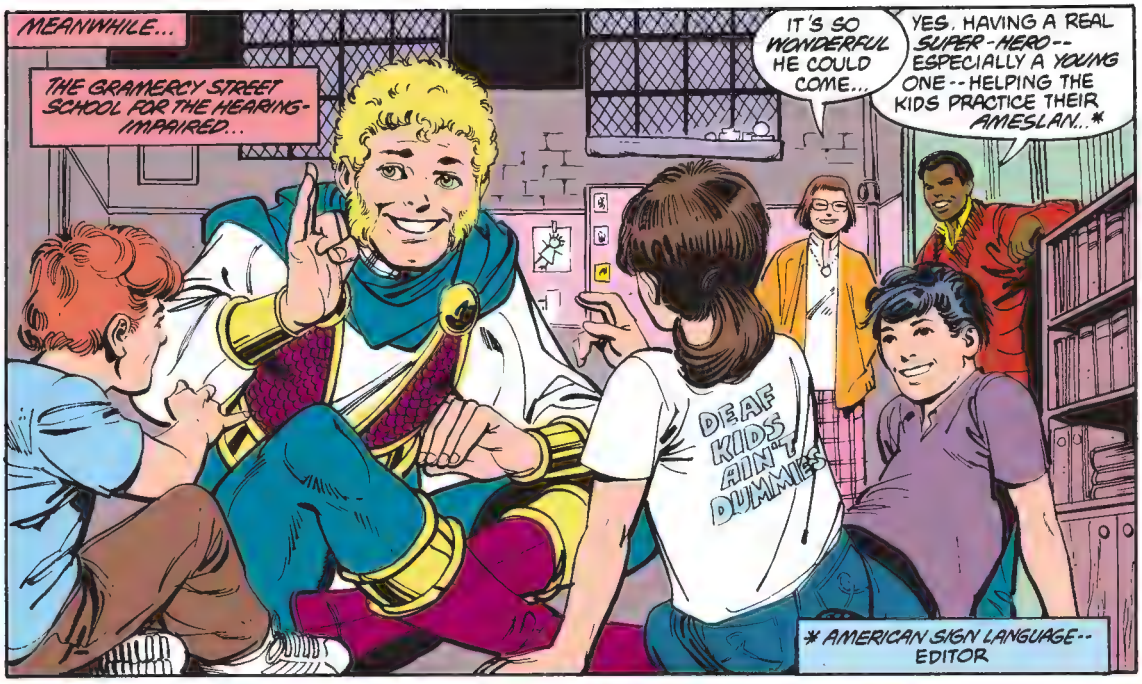
BRRIIING!
BLUE MOON DETECTIVE AGENCY.
FEELING TROUBLED AND AT THE END OF YOUR ROPE? WELL, YOU CALLED US, SO YOU'RE NO DOPE.
WE'LL RIGHT THE WRONGS AND SAVE THE DAY...
WE'LL PUT YOU BACK ON THE PROPER TRACK... AND MAYBE EVEN SCRATCH YOUR BACK...
GARFIELD!
I SWEAR, I CAN'T LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE FOR FIVE MINUTES WITHOUT YOU GOING GOOFY ON ME!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, WONDY.
I'LL JUST-- ER-- BUZZ OFF..
ZZZZZ
TITANS TOWER, WONDER GIRL SPEAKING.
I'M VERY SORRY FOR THAT... WHAT?
VIC? IS THAT REALLY YOU?
WHAT'S...??
NO!!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY!
C'MON, CHANGELING!
IT'S A RED ALERT!
A SUPER RED ALERT!
ZZZ??
9


HA! HA! HA!
TAXI
THIS IS TOO RICH!
COME OUT, ALL YOU SO-CALLED SUPER-HEROES! COME OUT AND FACE ME!
TEST YOUR PUNY POWERS AGAINST THE MIGHTIEST...
HUNH?
HEY, SUPES, BABY! DON'T KNOW JUST WHAT GAME YOU'RE PLAYING...
...BUT YOU JUST DUMPED ON ONE OF THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE ONE AN' ONLY TEEN TITANS!
AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS...
WE DUMP BACK!!
UNFH!!
GET THE PICTURE, BLUE-BOY?
10

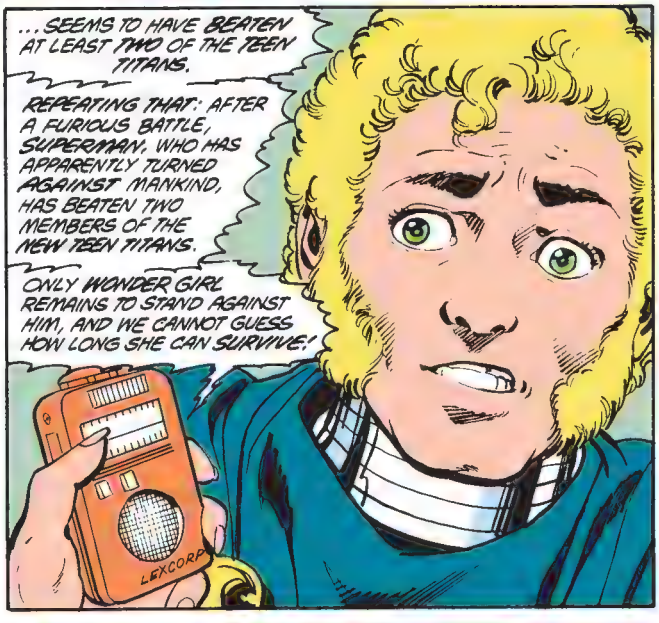
DOLT!
DO YOU REALLY THINK ME SO EASILY UNDONE?
THIS IS NOT SOME PETTY, UNTRIED, SUPER-VILLAIN YOU'RE DEALING WITH.
NOW, AND FOREVER...
...I AM SUPERMAN!!
YOWLP!!
BAH! THIS IS TOO EASY! THE TEEN TITANS ARE NOTHING TO ME.
I NEED A REAL CHALLENGE.
AN OPPONENT WORTHY OF MY GODLIKE MIGHT!
HE'S...TOO POWERFUL. DIDN'T...HAVE A...
...CHANCE...
IT IS RIDICULOUS TO WASTE MY POWER AGAINST SUCH FOES AS THESE.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN BATTLING CHILDREN!
WELL...
I MAY STILL CALL MYSELF A GIRL...
11

...BUT I THINK YOU'LL AGREE...
...I'M SOMETHING CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN A "CHILD."
AFTER ALL, THERE ARE VERY FEW CHILDREN WHO CAN DO...
WHONG!
THIS!
?!?
HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO GET OUT OF THE WAY.
I DROVE HIM INTO THE GROUND LIKE A TENT PEG!!
I CAN'T HAVE BEATEN HIM SO...
HM...?
12

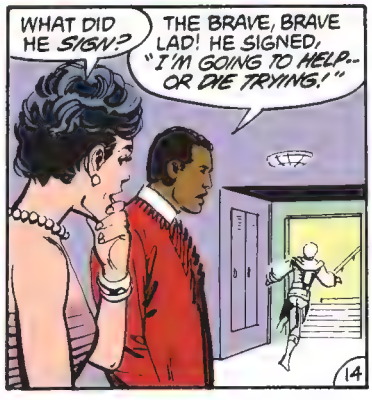
WHAT IN THE...?
OH-HH!!
HA HA!!
YOU'LL NEVER LEARN, YOU INFERIOR CREATURES!!
"INFERIOR"?
WELL, EXCUSE ME, FRIEND, BUT NOWADAYS US LIBERATED LADIES DON'T TAKE MUCH TO BEING CALLED INFERIOR BY A MAN.
NOT EVEN A SUPER MAN.
SO LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T TIE THIS UP FAST NOW, SHALL WE?
MY LASSO IS MADE OF ONE OF THE STRONGEST POLYMERS KNOWN TO SCIENCE.
JUST HOLD STILL, SUPERMAN, AND IN A FEW QUICK CIRCLES...
...WE SHOULD TURN THE TABLES ON YOUR EGO TRIP!
13

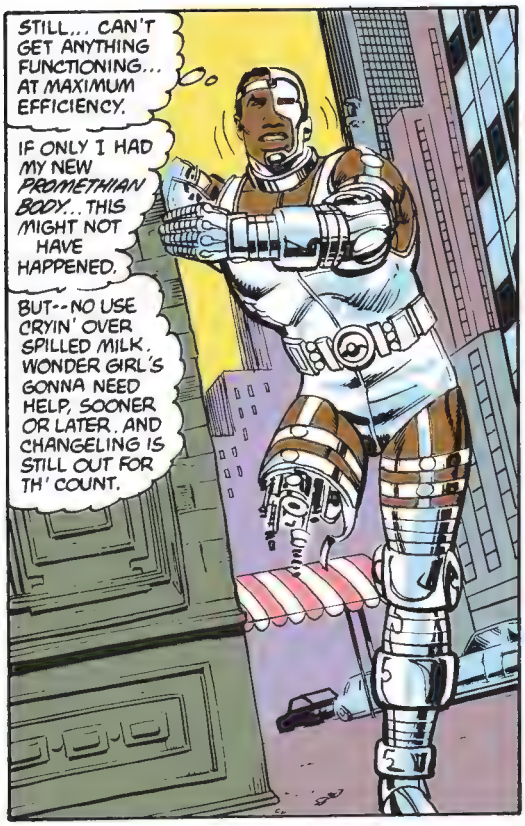

MEANWHILE...
THE GRAMERCY STREET SCHOOL FOR THE HEARING-IMPAIRED...
IT'S SO WONDERFUL HE COULD COME...
YES, HAVING A REAL SUPER-HERO--ESPECIALLY A YOUNG ONE--HELPING THE KIDS PRACTICE THEIR AMESLAN..*
DEAF KIDS AIN'T DUMMIES
* AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE--EDITOR

... MAKES IT MUCH EASIER FOR THEM TO OVERCOME THEIR HANDICAPS, JUST AS HE HAS. I...
JERICHO!
JERICHO, LISTEN TO THE RADIO!


...SEEMS TO HAVE BEATEN AT LEAST TWO OF THE TEEN TITANS.
REPEATING THAT: AFTER A FURIOUS BATTLE, SUPERMAN, WHO HAS APPARENTLY TURNED AGAINST MANKIND, HAS BEATEN TWO MEMBERS OF THE NEW TEEN TITANS.
ONLY WONDER GIRL REMAINS TO STAND AGAINST HIM, AND WE CANNOT GUESS HOW LONG SHE CAN SURVIVE!
LEXCORP

JERICHO...?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO??


WHAT DID HE SIGN?
THE BRAVE, BRAVE LAD! HE SIGNED, "I'M GOING TO HELP--OR DIE TRYING!"
14


STILL... CAN'T GET ANYTHING FUNCTIONING... AT MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY.
IF ONLY I HAD MY NEW *PROMETHIAN BODY*.. THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE HAPPENED.
BUT--NO USE CRYIN' OVER SPILLED MILK. WONDER GIRL'S GONNA NEED HELP, SOONER OR LATER. AND CHANGELING IS STILL OUT FOR TH' COUNT.

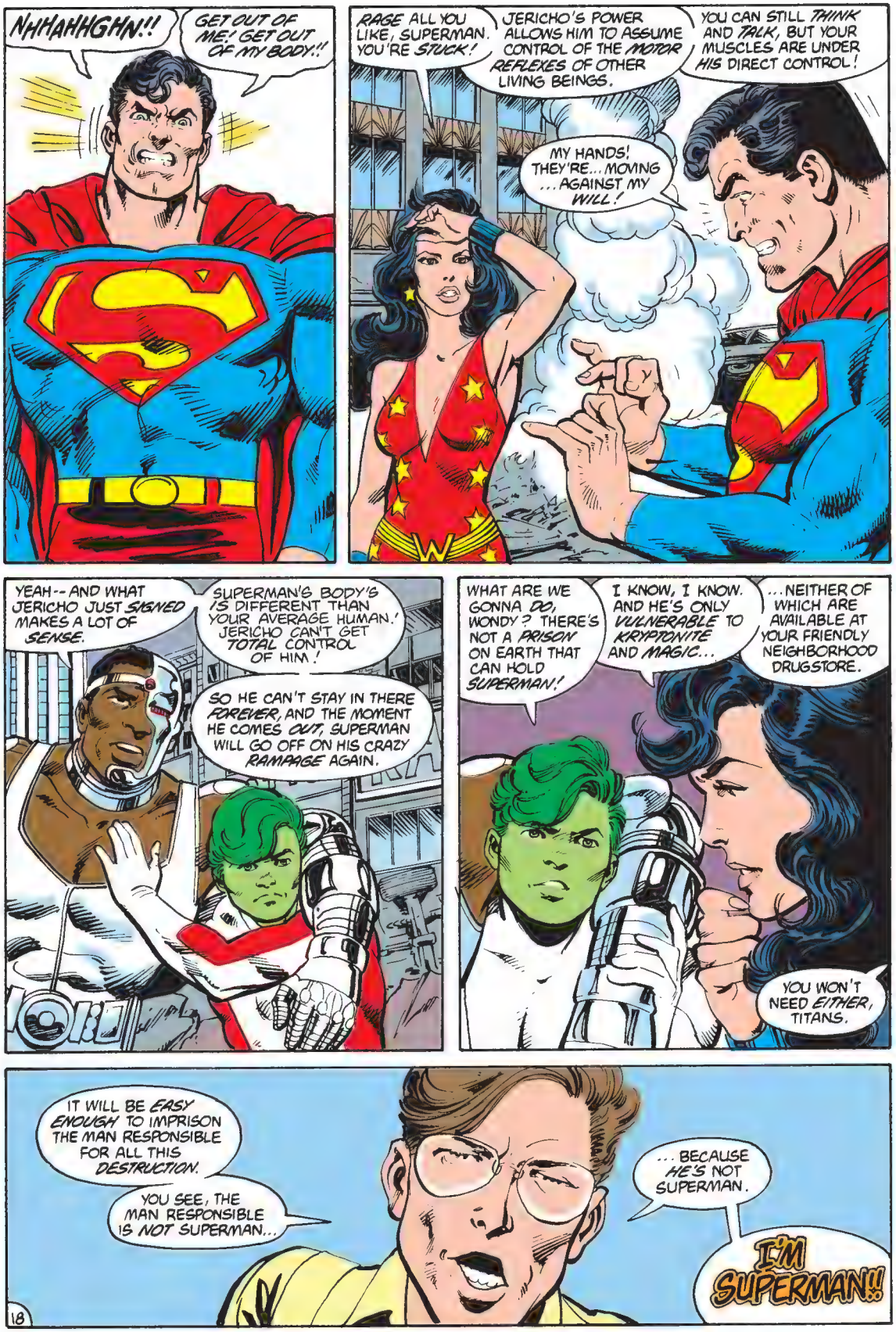
OH NO!!
HE'S BUSTED HER LASSO!
AND WITH HIS INCREDIBLE *SUPER-SPEED*, HE GRABBED HER BEFORE I EVEN SAW HIM *MOVE!*

FOOLISH, FOOLISH GIRL! HOW *EASY* IT WOULD BE TO *SNUFF OUT* YOUR LIFE NOW. BUT... BUT PERHAPS I *WON'T* KILL YOU.
NOT JUST *YET*, AT LEAST.
YOU'RE VERY *BEAUTIFUL*, WONDER GIRL. THERE ARE *OTHER* THINGS WE CAN DO *BEFORE* YOU *DIE*.
WE CAN LEARN IF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN CAN *SUFFER*.
SUFFER AS *I* HAVE SUFFERED, SCOFFED AT BY ALL THE WORLD'S *BEAUTIFUL WOMEN*.

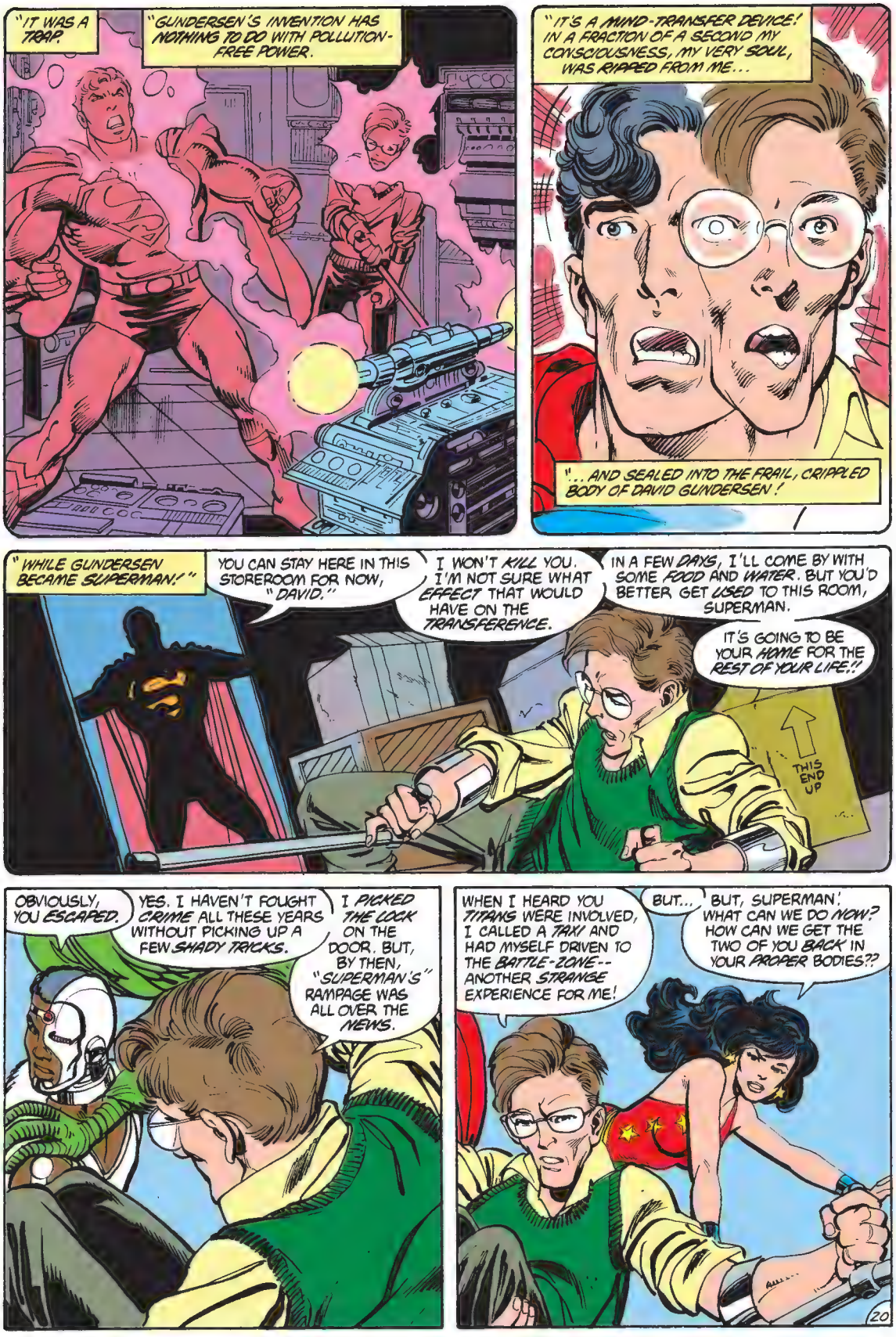
GOTTA *DO* SOMETHING!
CAN'T RISK USING ANY OF MY *WEAPONS SYSTEMS*. MIGHT HIT *HER*, TOO.
GOTTA *SMASH* INTO HIM, HARD AS I CAN WITH ONLY ONE LEG TO PROPEL ME. MAYBE GIVE HER A CHANCE TO GET *CLEAR!*
15

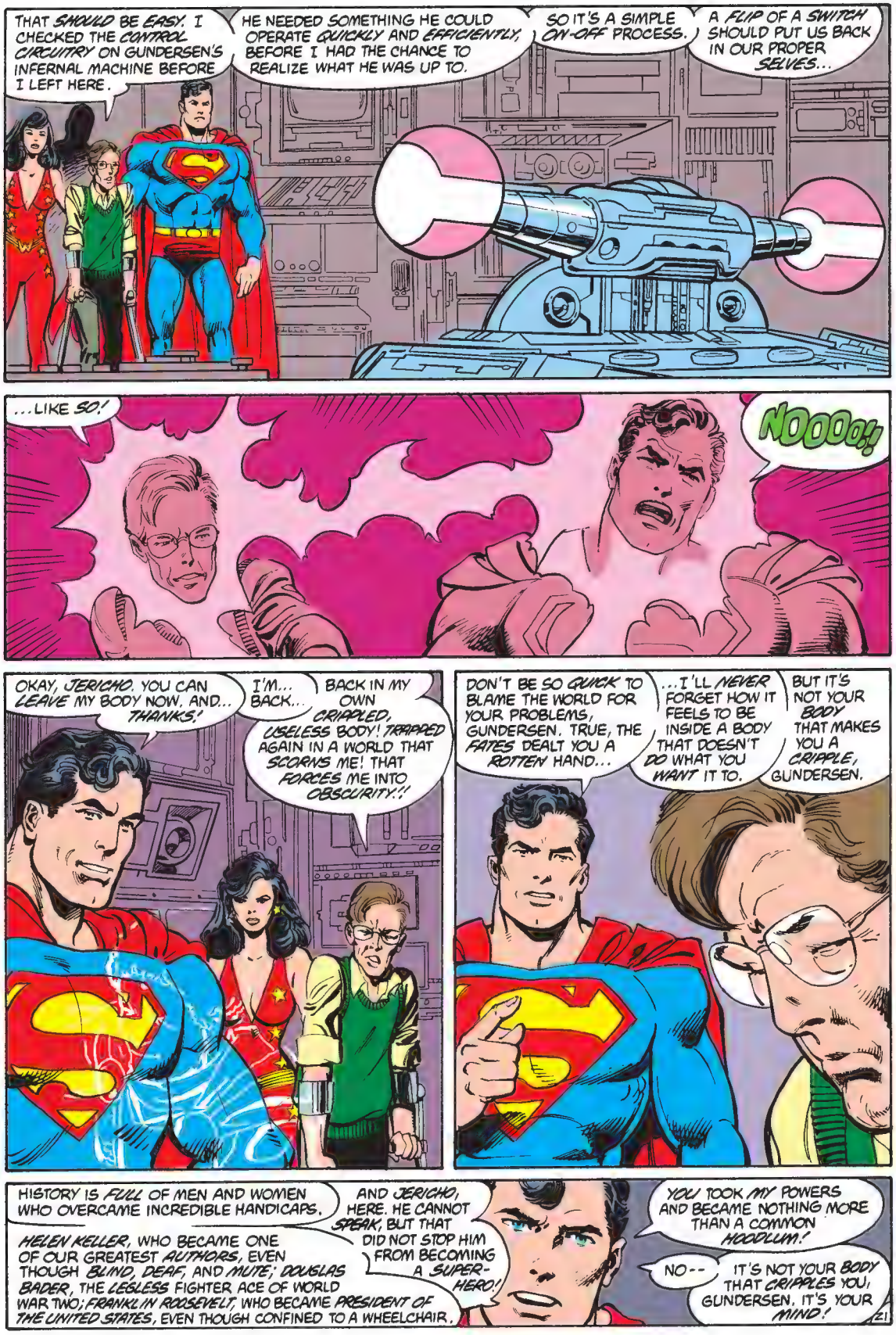
CYBORG!
WHAT?!?
WONDER GIRL! GET CLEAR! MOVE! WHILE YOU CAN!
MISERABLE, INTERFERING SWINE! DON'T YOU HAVE EVEN ENOUGH SENSE TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY??
YOU ESCAPED ONCE WITH YOUR LIFE, HALF-MAN.
YOU SHALL NOT DO SO A SECOND TIME!
NOW YOU DIE!!
UNGH!
MANAGED TO ROLL OUT OF THE WAY.
BUT CAN'T KEEP DOIN' THAT FOREVER!
I'M DONE FOR!!
KROM!
WHAT TH.....?!?
SPLOT!
16

ANOTHER ONE! ANOTHER IMBECILE SEEKING A SLOW AND PAINFUL DEATH!
VERY WELL, INFANT. STEP CLOSER, AND LET ME...
CONTACT!
...LET ME...
...ME...
BE CAREFUL, JERICHO!
SUPERMAN IS AN ALIEN BEING! YOUR MUTANT POWER MAY NOT WORK ON HIM!
17


NHHAHHGHN!!
GET OUT OF ME! GET OUT OF MY BODY!!
RAGE ALL YOU LIKE, SUPERMAN. YOU'RE STUCK!
JERICHO'S POWER ALLOWS HIM TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THE MOTOR REFLEXES OF OTHER LIVING BEINGS.
YOU CAN STILL THINK AND TALK, BUT YOUR MUSCLES ARE UNDER HIS DIRECT CONTROL!
MY HANDS! THEY'RE... MOVING ...AGAINST MY WILL!
YEAH-- AND WHAT JERICHO JUST SIGNED MAKES A LOT OF SENSE.
SUPERMAN'S BODY'S IS DIFFERENT THAN YOUR AVERAGE HUMAN.' JERICHO CAN'T GET TOTAL CONTROL OF HIM!
SO HE CAN'T STAY IN THERE FOREVER, AND THE MOMENT HE COMES OUT, SUPERMAN WILL GO OFF ON HIS CRAZY RAMPAGE AGAIN.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO, WONDY? THERE'S NOT A PRISON ON EARTH THAT CAN HOLD SUPERMAN!
I KNOW, I KNOW. AND HE'S ONLY VULNERABLE TO KRYPTONITE AND MAGIC...
...NEITHER OF WHICH ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD DRUGSTORE.
YOU WON'T NEED EITHER, TITANS.
IT WILL BE EASY ENOUGH TO IMPRISON THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS DESTRUCTION.
YOU SEE, THE MAN RESPONSIBLE IS NOT SUPERMAN...
...BECAUSE HE'S NOT SUPERMAN.
I'M SUPERMAN!!
18

WELL, I'VE HEARD SOME STRANGE TALES IN MY DAY, SUPES, BUT THIS ONE REALLY TAKES THE BISCUIT!
CARE TO EXPLAIN IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL?
SUPES?
YOO, HOO!!
SOOOO-PERMAN!!
HMM?
OH... SORRY, CHANGELING. I'VE FLOWN OVER THIS TOWN ABOUT TEN THOUSAND TIMES, BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN CARRIED BEFORE.
IT'S-- UNNERVING!!
WELL, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, SUPERMAN. TELL US WHAT HAPPENED!
"OF COURSE, WONDER GIRL, IT ALL STARTED WITH A TELEPHONE CALL TO CLARK KENT..
YES, MR. GUNDERSEN. I UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION. I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO CONTACT SUPERMAN FOR YOU.
"THE CALL WAS FROM DAVID GUNDERSEN. HE CLAIMED TO BE AN AMATEUR SCIENTIST WHO NEEDED SUPERMAN'S HELP TO COMPLETE AN EXPERIMENT. IF THE EXPERIMENT WAS SUCCESSFUL, GUNDERSEN SAID IT WOULD CREATE A GREAT NEW, POLLUTION-FREE SOURCE OF ENERGY.
"KENT CONTACTED ME, AS PROMISED, AND I FLEW TO GUNDERSEN'S HOME."
SUPERMAN! I'M SO PLEASED YOU COULD COME!
ALWAYS GLAD TO HELP A WORTHY CAUSE, MR. GUNDERSEN. KENT TOLD ME THE BASICS OF YOUR INVENTION. IT SOUNDS PROMISING.
ALTHOUGH I'M AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE...?
OH, THAT WILL BE MADE VERY CLEAR IN JUST A MOMENT, SUPERMAN.
VERY CLEAR..
19

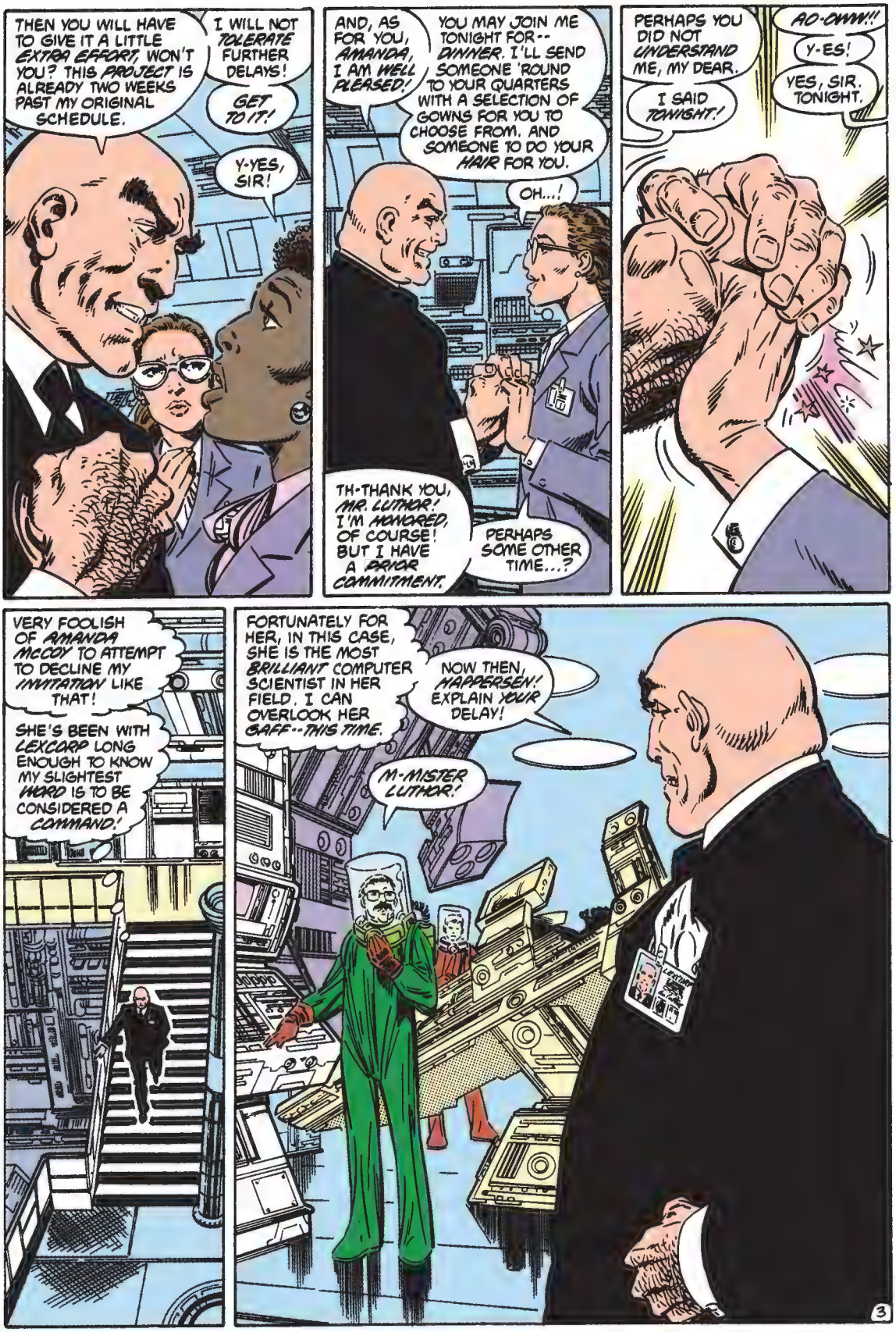

"IT WAS A TRAP.
"GUNDERSEN'S INVENTION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH POLLUTION-FREE POWER.
"IT'S A MIND-TRANSFER DEVICE! IN A FRACTION OF A SECOND MY CONSCIOUSNESS, MY VERY SOUL, WAS RIPPED FROM ME...
"... AND SEALED INTO THE FRAIL, CRIPPLED BODY OF DAVID GUNDERSEN!
"WHILE GUNDERSEN BECAME SUPERMAN!"
YOU CAN STAY HERE IN THIS STOREROOM FOR NOW, "DAVID."
I WON'T KILL YOU. I'M NOT SURE WHAT EFFECT THAT WOULD HAVE ON THE TRANSFERENCE.
IN A FEW DAYS, I'LL COME BY WITH SOME FOOD AND WATER. BUT YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO THIS ROOM, SUPERMAN.
IT'S GOING TO BE YOUR HOME FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!!
THIS END UP
OBVIOUSLY, YOU ESCAPED.
YES. I HAVEN'T FOUGHT CRIME ALL THESE YEARS WITHOUT PICKING UP A FEW SHADY TRICKS.
I PICKED THE LOCK ON THE DOOR. BUT, BY THEN, "SUPERMAN'S" RAMPAGE WAS ALL OVER THE NEWS.
WHEN I HEARD YOU TITANS WERE INVOLVED, I CALLED A TAXI AND HAD MYSELF DRIVEN TO THE BATTLE-ZONE-- ANOTHER STRANGE EXPERIENCE FOR ME!
BUT...
BUT, SUPERMAN! WHAT CAN WE DO NOW? HOW CAN WE GET THE TWO OF YOU BACK IN YOUR PROPER BODIES??
20

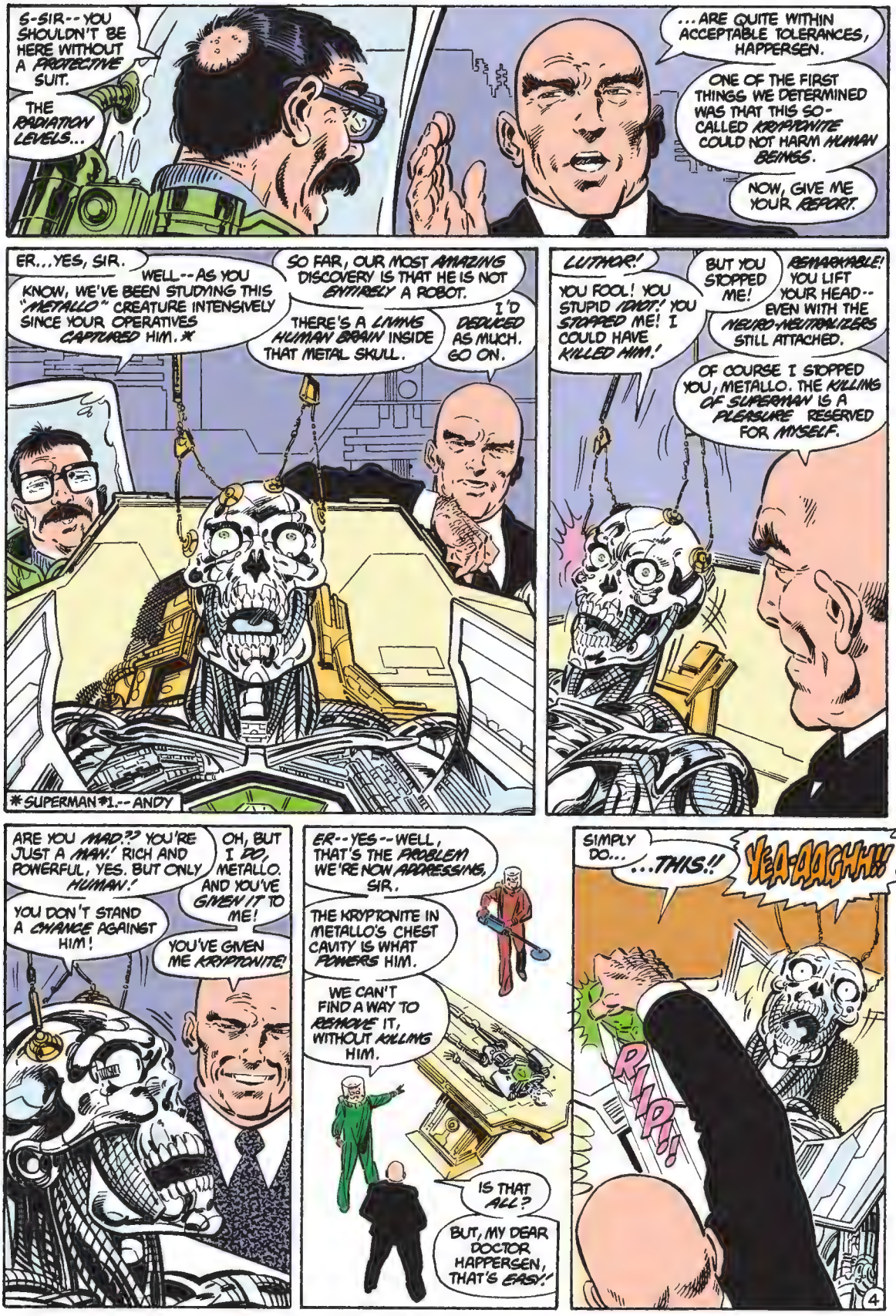

THAT SHOULD BE EASY. I CHECKED THE CONTROL CIRCUITRY ON GUNDERSEN'S INFERNAL MACHINE BEFORE I LEFT HERE.
HE NEEDED SOMETHING HE COULD OPERATE QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY, BEFORE I HAD THE CHANCE TO REALIZE WHAT HE WAS UP TO.
SO IT'S A SIMPLE ON-OFF PROCESS.
A FLIP OF A SWITCH SHOULD PUT US BACK IN OUR PROPER SELVES...
...LIKE SO!
NOOOO!!
OKAY, JERICHO. YOU CAN LEAVE MY BODY NOW. AND... THANKS!
I'M... BACK...
BACK IN MY OWN CRIPPLED, USELESS BODY! TRAPPED AGAIN IN A WORLD THAT SCORNS ME! THAT FORCES ME INTO OBSCURITY!!
DON'T BE SO QUICK TO BLAME THE WORLD FOR YOUR PROBLEMS, GUNDERSEN. TRUE, THE FATES DEALT YOU A ROTTEN HAND...
...I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW IT FEELS TO BE INSIDE A BODY THAT DOESN'T DO WHAT YOU WANT IT TO.
BUT IT'S NOT YOUR BODY THAT MAKES YOU A CRIPPLE, GUNDERSEN.
HISTORY IS FULL OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO OVERCAME INCREDIBLE HANDICAPS.
HELEN KELLER, WHO BECAME ONE OF OUR GREATEST AUTHORS, EVEN THOUGH BLIND, DEAF, AND MUTE; DOUGLAS BADER, THE LEGLESS FIGHTER ACE OF WORLD WAR TWO; FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, WHO BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, EVEN THOUGH CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR.
AND JERICHO, HERE. HE CANNOT SPEAK, BUT THAT DID NOT STOP HIM FROM BECOMING A SUPER-HERO!
YOU TOOK MY POWERS AND BECAME NOTHING MORE THAN A COMMON HOODLUM!
NO--
IT'S NOT YOUR BODY THAT CRIPPLES YOU, GUNDERSEN. IT'S YOUR MIND!
Z1

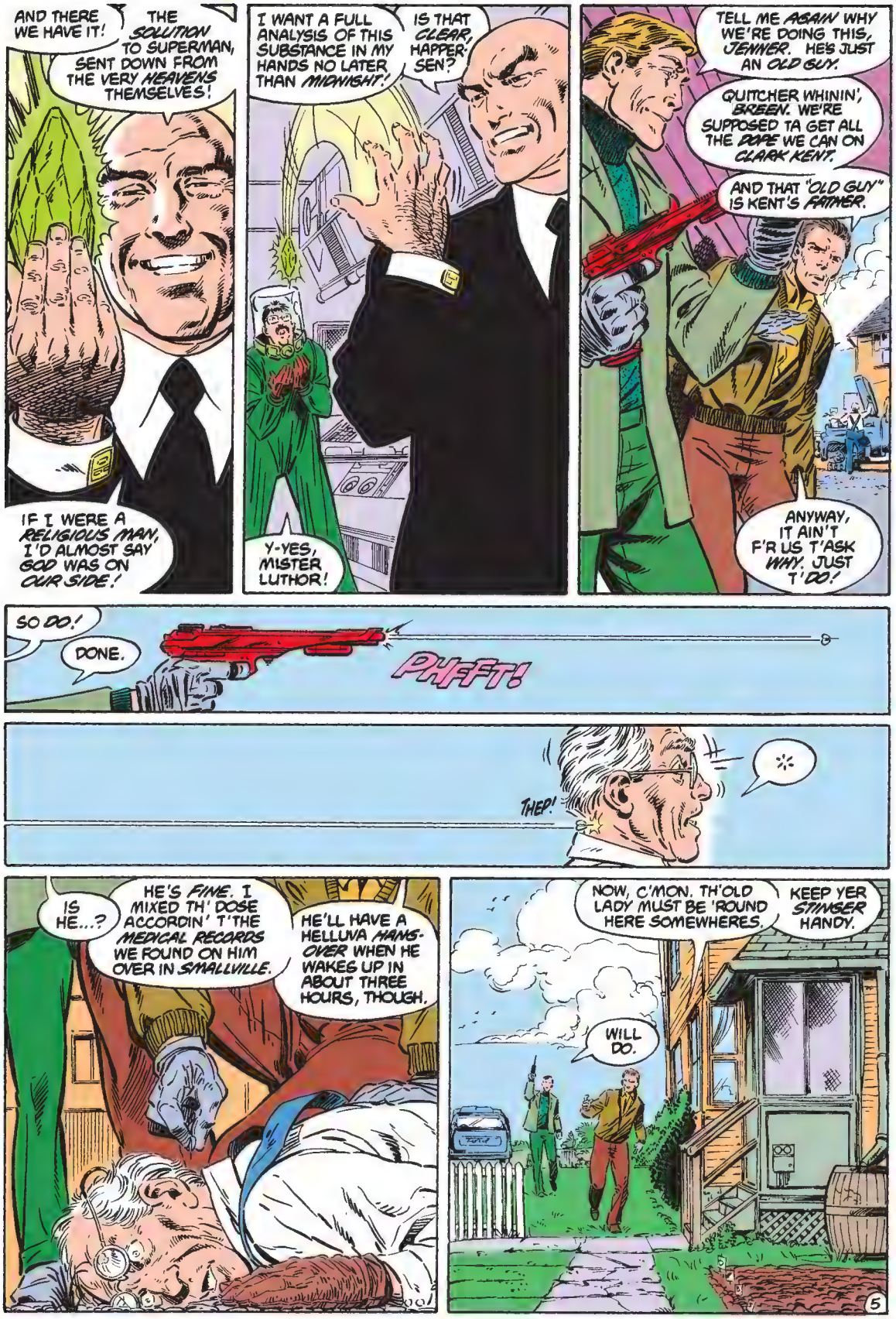
ELSEWHERE:
PARIS, FRANCE. TEN HOURS LATER.
MONSIEUR L-- YOUR AMERICAN PAPERS.
THANK YOU, COLETTE. I SUPPOSE THEY'RE FULL OF THE USUAL DRIVEL ABOUT THAT POPPIN-JAY, SUPERMAN?
OUI, MONSIEUR. ZEE DAILY PLANET 'AS A FRONT PAGE STORY ABOUT ZEE BATTLE BETWEEN SUPAIRMAN AND ZEE TEEN TITANS!
MM. BY CLARK KENT, ALSO AS USUAL. FUNNY, LOIS LANE WAS THE HOTTEST REPORTER ON THE PLANET BEFORE KENT CAME ALONG.
AND NOW IT SEEMS SHE COMES IN SECOND ON ALL THE TOP STORIES -- AT LEAST THE ONES INVOLVING SUPERMAN.
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN EXONERATED
HERO VICTIM OF "MIND SWITCH"
TITANS IN GOOD HEALTH SAY DOCTORS
JERICHO DECLARED HERO OF HOUR
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT HADN'T REALLY OCCURRED TO ME UNTIL NOW. CLARK KENT ALWAYS GETS THE BEST SUPERMAN STORIES.
THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF CONNECTION BETWEEN KENT AND SUPERMAN.
AND LEX LUTHOR IS JUST THE MAN TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT THAT CONNECTION IS!!
PLANET
ERMAN
ATED

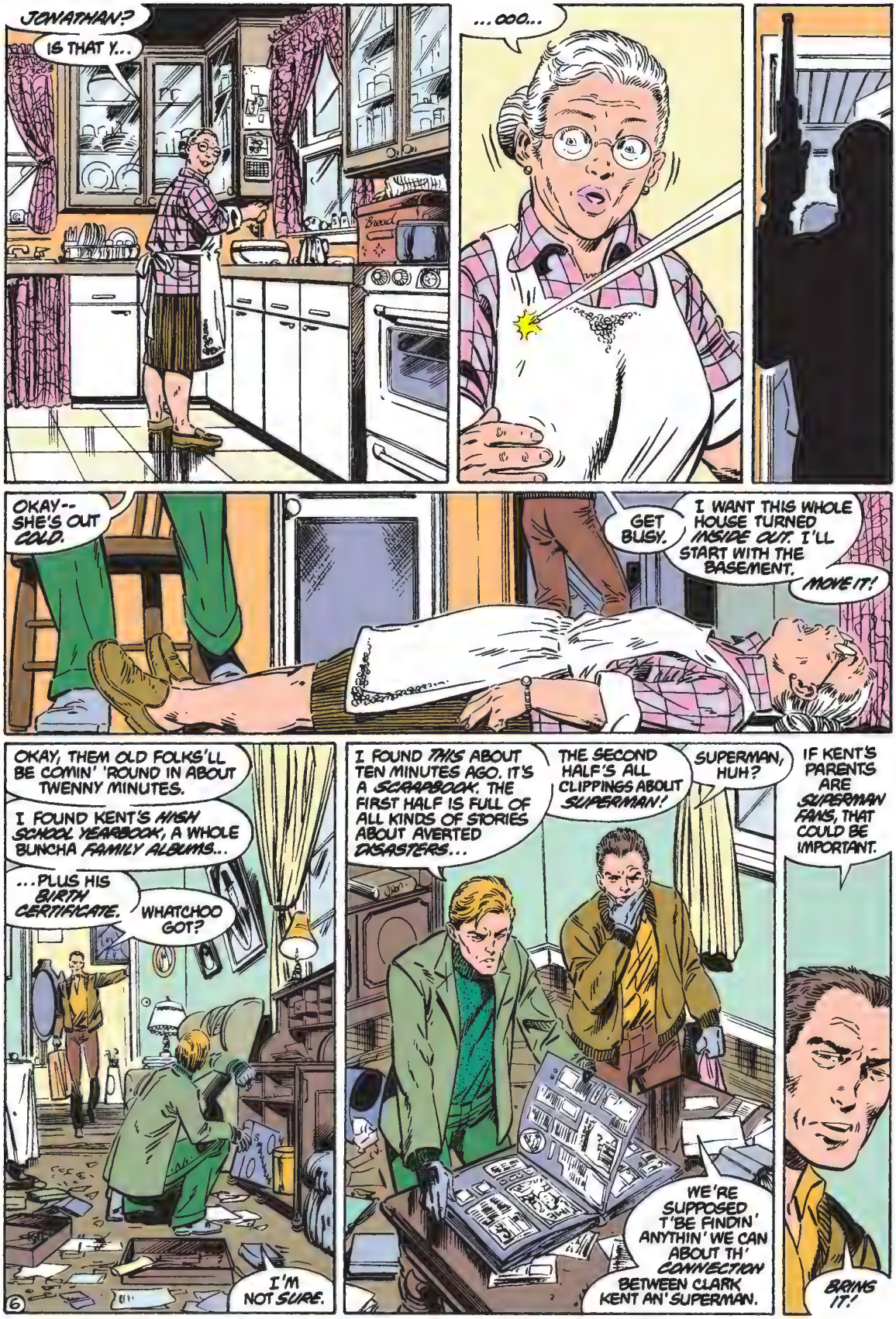
SUPERMAN™
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THE SECRET REVEALED!
JOHN BYRNE • TERRY AUSTIN • JOHN COSTANZA • TOM ZIUKO • ANDREW HELFER
story & pencils inks lettering coloring editing
SPECIAL THANKS TO KEITH WILLIAMS FOR BACKGROUND INKS
THERE SHE IS, SIR!
G-2906

WE DON'T HAVE THE *FOGGIEST* NOTION WHO SHE IS, OF COURSE.
BUT, WHEN WE STARTED OUR *COMPUTER-ENHANCED* ANALYSIS OF ALL AVAILABLE NEWS FOOTAGE OF *SUPERMAN* IN ACTION --
--THERE SHE WAS!
INTERESTING.
AND SHE WAS THERE FROM THE *START?*
NO, SIR. THERE'S NO SIGN OF HER IN ANY OF THE VISIBLE CROWD FOOTAGE FROM SUPERMAN'S FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE -- WHEN HE SAVED THE CRASHING *SPACE PLANE.*
SHE SEEMS TO TURN UP FIRST ABOUT THREE WEEKS AFTER HIS PUBLIC DEBUT.
FASCINATING. A *SUPER-GROUPIE,* DO YOU THINK?
OR SOMETHING *MORE* -- SOMEONE *CONNECTED* TO SUPERMAN.
A *LOVER.* A RELATIVE.
CAN YOU GIVE ME A *HARD COPY* OF THAT FACE?
OF COURSE.
HERE WE GO, SIR.
PHOTO
SCAN
PRINT
EXCELLENT.
VERY WELL -- ARMSTRONG'S SQUAD IS COVERING ALL THE PUBLIC APPEARANCES OF SUPERMAN...
...WHILE JENNER'S TEAM IS INVESTIGATING *CLARK KENT.*
DUNLOP! POOLE! I WANT YOU TO *FIND* THIS WOMAN!
THAT'S A PRETTY *TALL ORDER,* MR. L. WE CAN'T SEE ANY TRACE OF HER IN FOOTAGE LESS THAN SIX MONTHS OLD.
IT'S LIKE SHE JUST *VANISHED!*
②

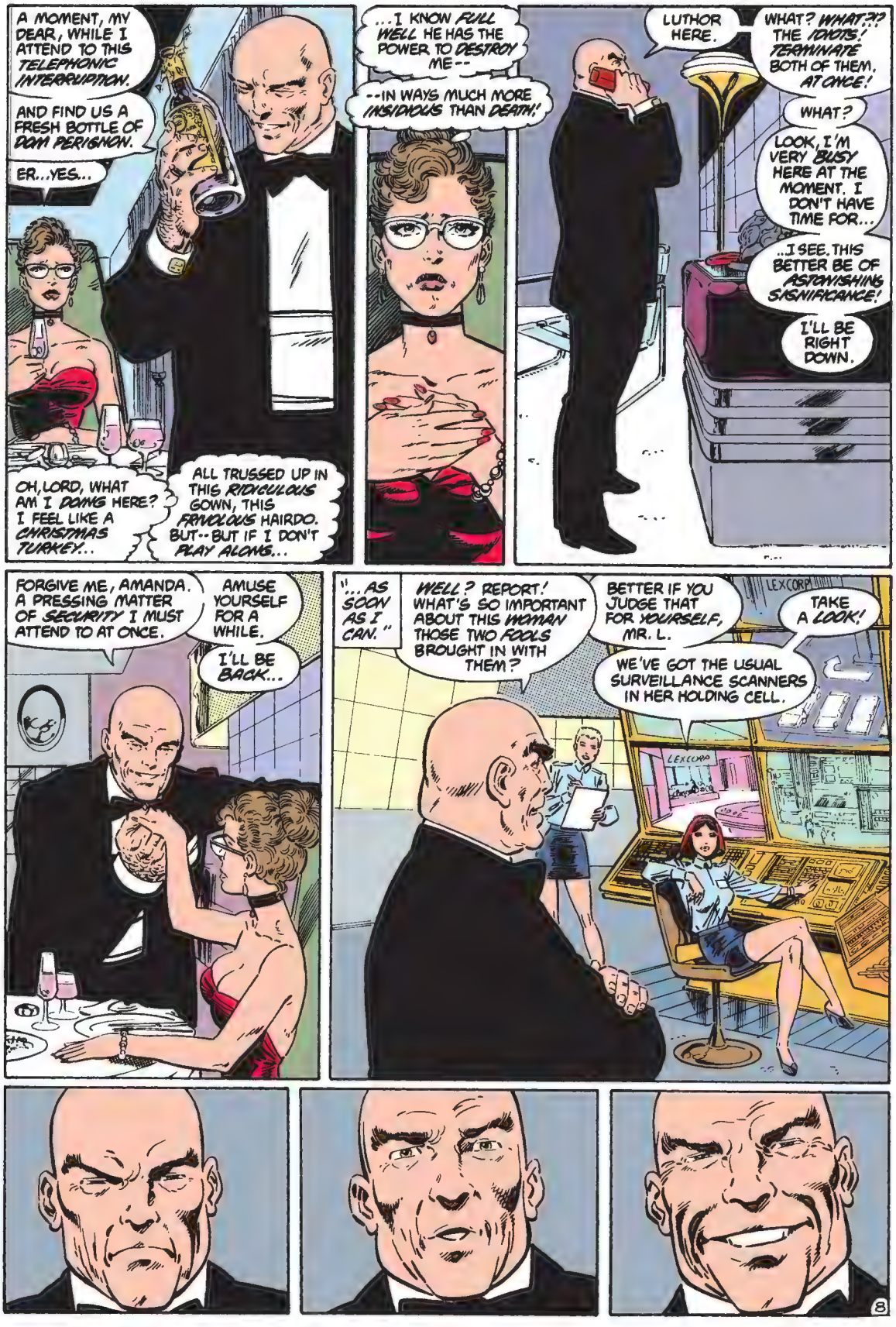

THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO GIVE IT A LITTLE *EXTRA EFFORT*, WON'T YOU? THIS *PROJECT* IS ALREADY TWO WEEKS PAST MY ORIGINAL SCHEDULE.
I WILL NOT *TOLERATE* FURTHER DELAYS!
GET TO IT!
Y-YES, SIR!
AND, AS FOR YOU, *AMANDA*, I AM *WELL PLEASED!*
YOU MAY JOIN ME TONIGHT FOR-- *DINNER*. I'LL SEND SOMEONE 'ROUND TO YOUR QUARTERS WITH A SELECTION OF GOWNS FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM, AND SOMEONE TO DO YOUR *HAIR* FOR YOU.
OH...!
TH-THANK YOU, *MR. LUTHOR!* I'M *HONORED*, OF COURSE! BUT I HAVE A *PRIOR COMMITMENT*.
PERHAPS SOME OTHER TIME...?
PERHAPS YOU DID NOT *UNDERSTAND* ME, MY DEAR.
I SAID *TONIGHT!*
AO-OWW!!!
Y-ES!
YES, SIR. TONIGHT.
VERY FOOLISH OF *AMANDA McCOY* TO ATTEMPT TO DECLINE MY *INVITATION* LIKE THAT!
SHE'S BEEN WITH *LEXCORP* LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW MY SLIGHTEST *WORD* IS TO BE CONSIDERED A *COMMAND!*
FORTUNATELY FOR HER, IN THIS CASE, SHE IS THE MOST *BRILLIANT* COMPUTER SCIENTIST IN HER FIELD. I CAN OVERLOOK HER *GAFF--THIS TIME.*
NOW THEN, *HAPPERSEN!* EXPLAIN *YOUR* DELAY!
M-MISTER LUTHOR!
3

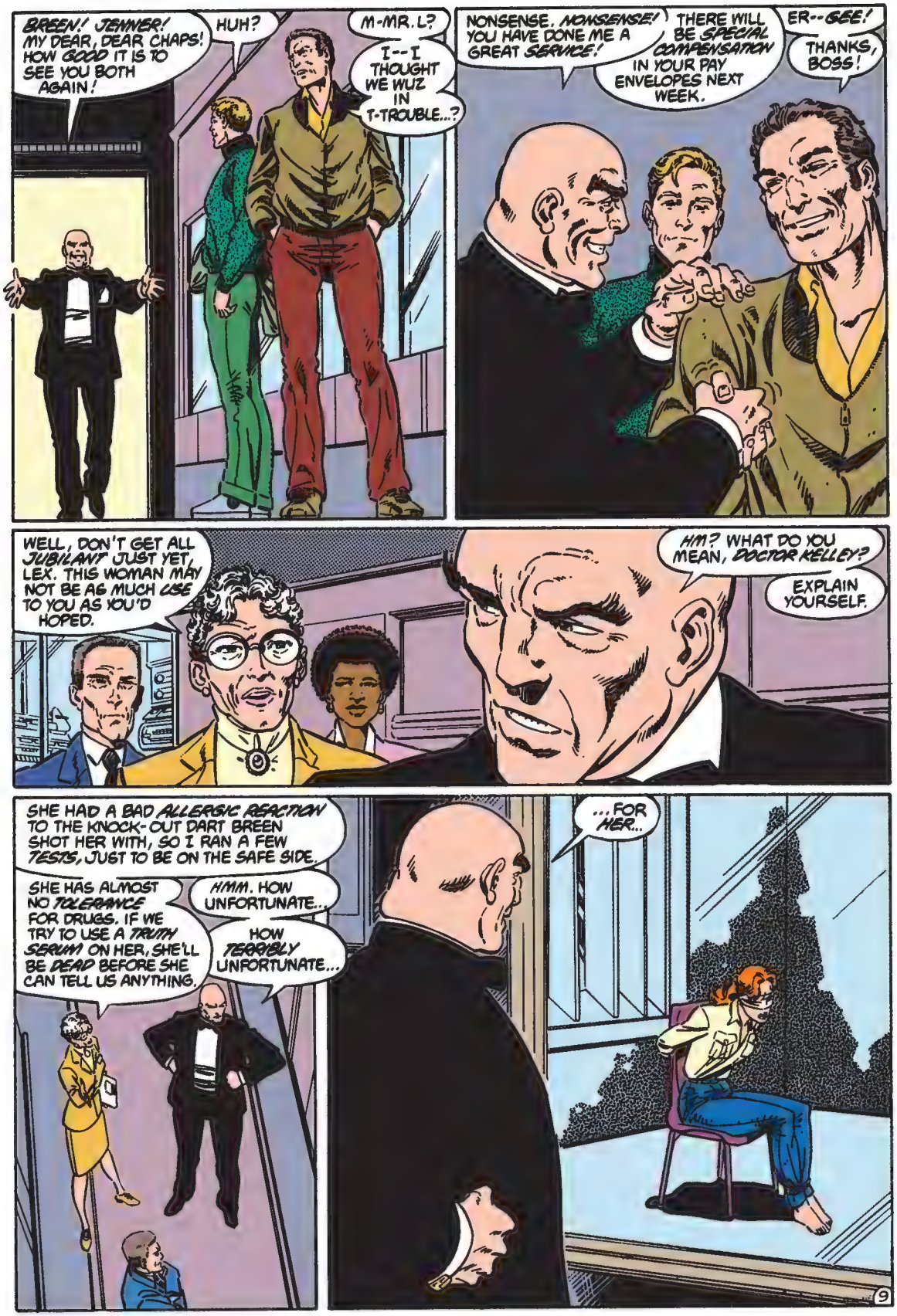

S-SIR--YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT A PROTECTIVE SUIT.
THE RADIATION LEVELS...
...ARE QUITE WITHIN ACCEPTABLE TOLERANCES, HAPPERSEN.
ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS WE DETERMINED WAS THAT THIS SO-CALLED KRYPTONITE COULD NOT HARM HUMAN BEINGS.
NOW, GIVE ME YOUR REPORT.
ER...YES, SIR.
WELL--AS YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN STUDYING THIS "METALLO" CREATURE INTENSIVELY SINCE YOUR OPERATIVES CAPTURED HIM. *
SO FAR, OUR MOST AMAZING DISCOVERY IS THAT HE IS NOT ENTIRELY A ROBOT.
THERE'S A LIVING HUMAN BRAIN INSIDE THAT METAL SKULL.
I'D DEDUCED AS MUCH. GO ON.
*SUPERMAN #1.--ANDY
LUTHOR!
YOU FOOL! YOU STUPID IDIOT! YOU STOPPED ME! I COULD HAVE KILLED HIM!
BUT YOU STOPPED ME!
REMARKABLE! YOU LIFT YOUR HEAD--EVEN WITH THE NEURO-NEUTRALIZERS STILL ATTACHED.
OF COURSE I STOPPED YOU, METALLO. THE KILLING OF SUPERMAN IS A PLEASURE RESERVED FOR MYSELF.
ARE YOU MAD?? YOU'RE JUST A MAN! RICH AND POWERFUL, YES. BUT ONLY HUMAN!
OH, BUT I DO, METALLO. AND YOU'VE GIVEN IT TO ME!
YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM!
YOU'VE GIVEN ME KRYPTONITE!
ER--YES--WELL, THAT'S THE PROBLEM WE'RE NOW ADDRESSING, SIR.
THE KRYPTONITE IN METALLO'S CHEST CAVITY IS WHAT POWERS HIM.
WE CAN'T FIND A WAY TO REMOVE IT, WITHOUT KILLING HIM.
IS THAT ALL?
BUT, MY DEAR DOCTOR HAPPERSEN, THAT'S EASY!
SIMPLY DO...
...THIS!!
YEA-AAGHH!!
RIP!!
4

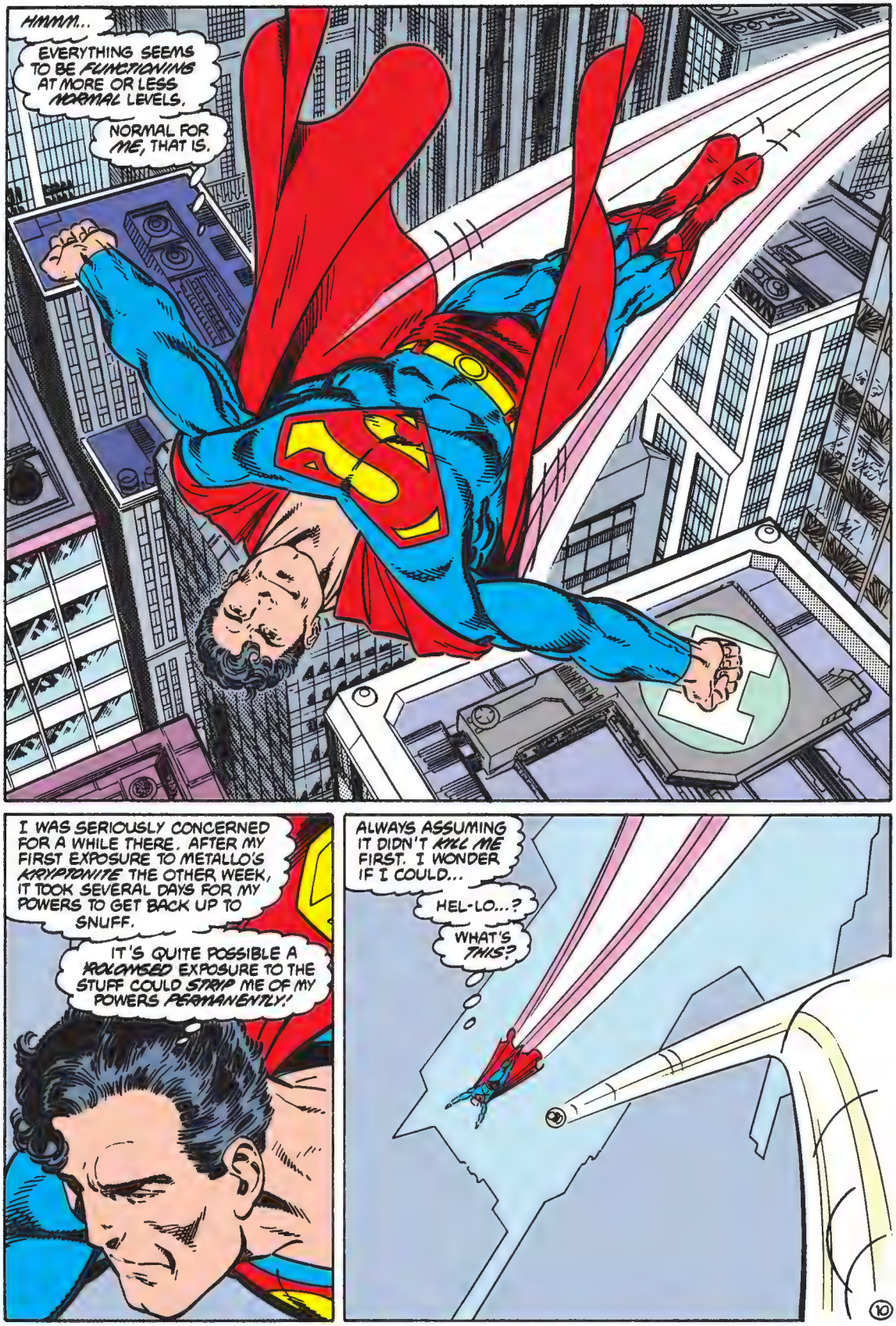

AND THERE WE HAVE IT!
THE SOLUTION TO SUPERMAN, SENT DOWN FROM THE VERY HEAVENS THEMSELVES!
IF I WERE A RELIGIOUS MAN, I'D ALMOST SAY GOD WAS ON OUR SIDE!
I WANT A FULL ANALYSIS OF THIS SUBSTANCE IN MY HANDS NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT!
IS THAT CLEAR, HAPPERSEN?
Y-YES, MISTER LUTHOR!
TELL ME AGAIN WHY WE'RE DOING THIS, JENNER. HE'S JUST AN OLD GUY.
QUITCHER WHININ', BREEN. WE'RE SUPPOSED TA GET ALL THE DIRT WE CAN ON CLARK KENT.
AND THAT "OLD GUY" IS KENT'S FATHER.
ANYWAY, IT AIN'T F'R US T'ASK WHY. JUST T'DO!
SO DO!
DONE.
PHFFT!
THEP!
IS HE...?
HE'S FINE. I MIXED TH' DOSE ACCORDIN' T'THE MEDICAL RECORDS WE FOUND ON HIM OVER IN SMALLVILLE.
HE'LL HAVE A HELLUVA HANGOVER WHEN HE WAKES UP IN ABOUT THREE HOURS, THOUGH.
NOW, C'MON. TH'OLD LADY MUST BE 'ROUND HERE SOMEWHERES.
KEEP YER STINGER HANDY.
WILL DO.
5

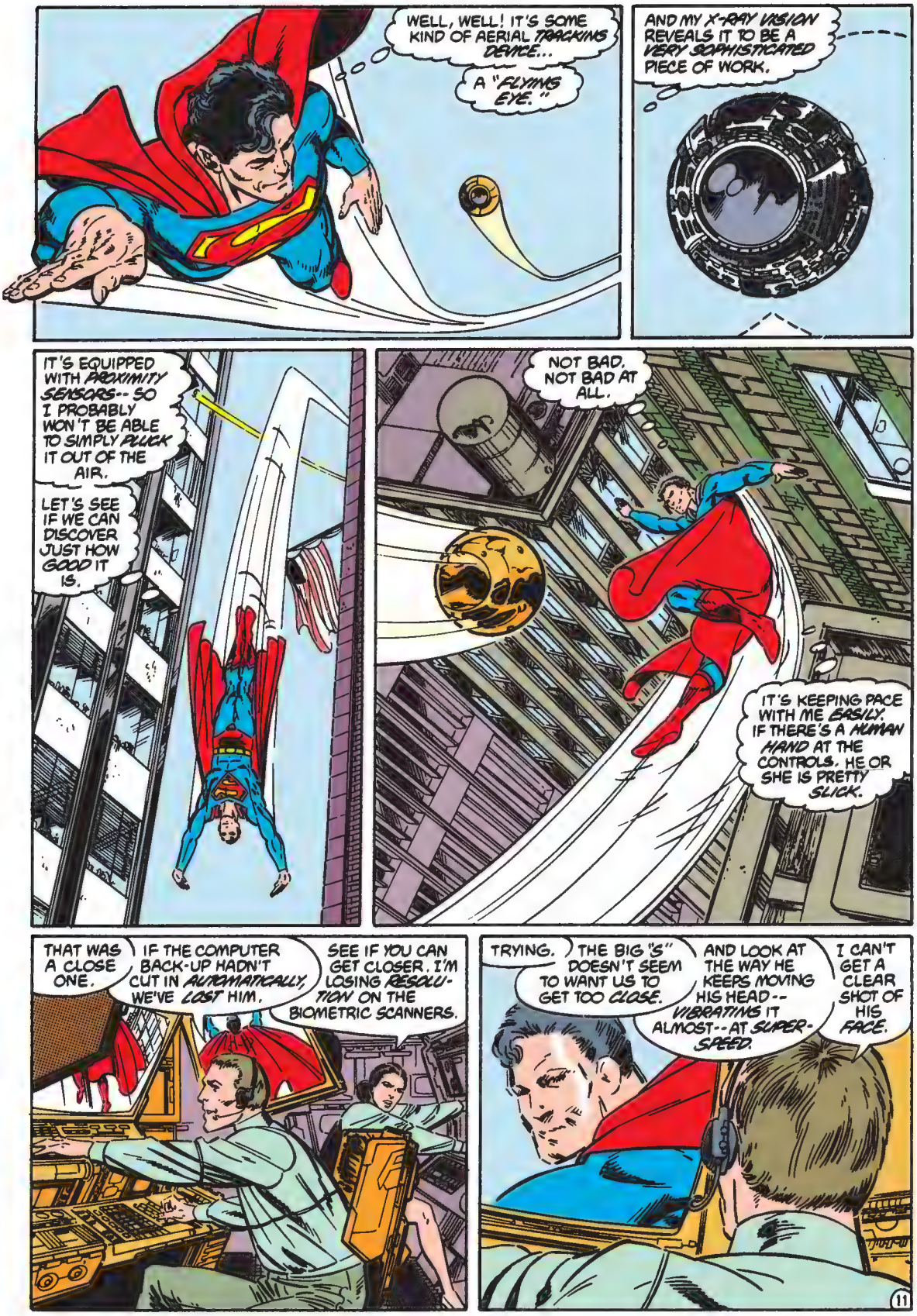

JONATHAN?
IS THAT Y...
...OOO...
OKAY-- SHE'S OUT COLD.
GET BUSY.
I WANT THIS WHOLE HOUSE TURNED INSIDE OUT. I'LL START WITH THE BASEMENT.
MOVE IT!
OKAY, THEM OLD FOLKS'LL BE COMIN' 'ROUND IN ABOUT TWENNY MINUTES.
I FOUND KENT'S HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK, A WHOLE BUNCHA FAMILY ALBUMS...
...PLUS HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE.
WHATCHOO GOT?
I'M NOT SURE.
I FOUND THIS ABOUT TEN MINUTES AGO. IT'S A SCRAPBOOK. THE FIRST HALF IS FULL OF ALL KINDS OF STORIES ABOUT AVERTED DISASTERS...
THE SECOND HALF'S ALL CLIPPINGS ABOUT SUPERMAN!
SUPERMAN, HUH?
WE'RE SUPPOSED T'BE FINDIN' ANYTHIN' WE CAN ABOUT TH' CONNECTION BETWEEN CLARK KENT AN' SUPERMAN.
IF KENT'S PARENTS ARE SUPERMAN FANS, THAT COULD BE IMPORTANT.
BRING IT!
6

OH, HI! I DIDN'T REALIZE JONATHAN AND MARTHA HAD COMP...
HEY! WHO ARE YOU GUYS? WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THE KENTS' THINGS?
OH, SPIT!
PHFFT!
DROP HER!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU!
OH-HHH!
DAMN! DO YOU THINK SHE MADE US?
IN BROAD DAYLIGHT? RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN?
OF COURSE SHE MADE US, DIM-BULB.
WE CAN'T RISK HER YAKKIN' T'TH' COPS, AN' WE GOT NO KILL PERMISSION FER THIS JOB.
WE BETTER TAKE HER WITH US.
"BACK TO METROPOLIS!"
MORE WINE, MY DEAR?
ER...YES...
THANK YOU.
YOU SEEM ILL AT EASE, MY DEAR.
IS SOMETHING DISTRESSING YOU?
BRRR-TT
BRRR-TT
7

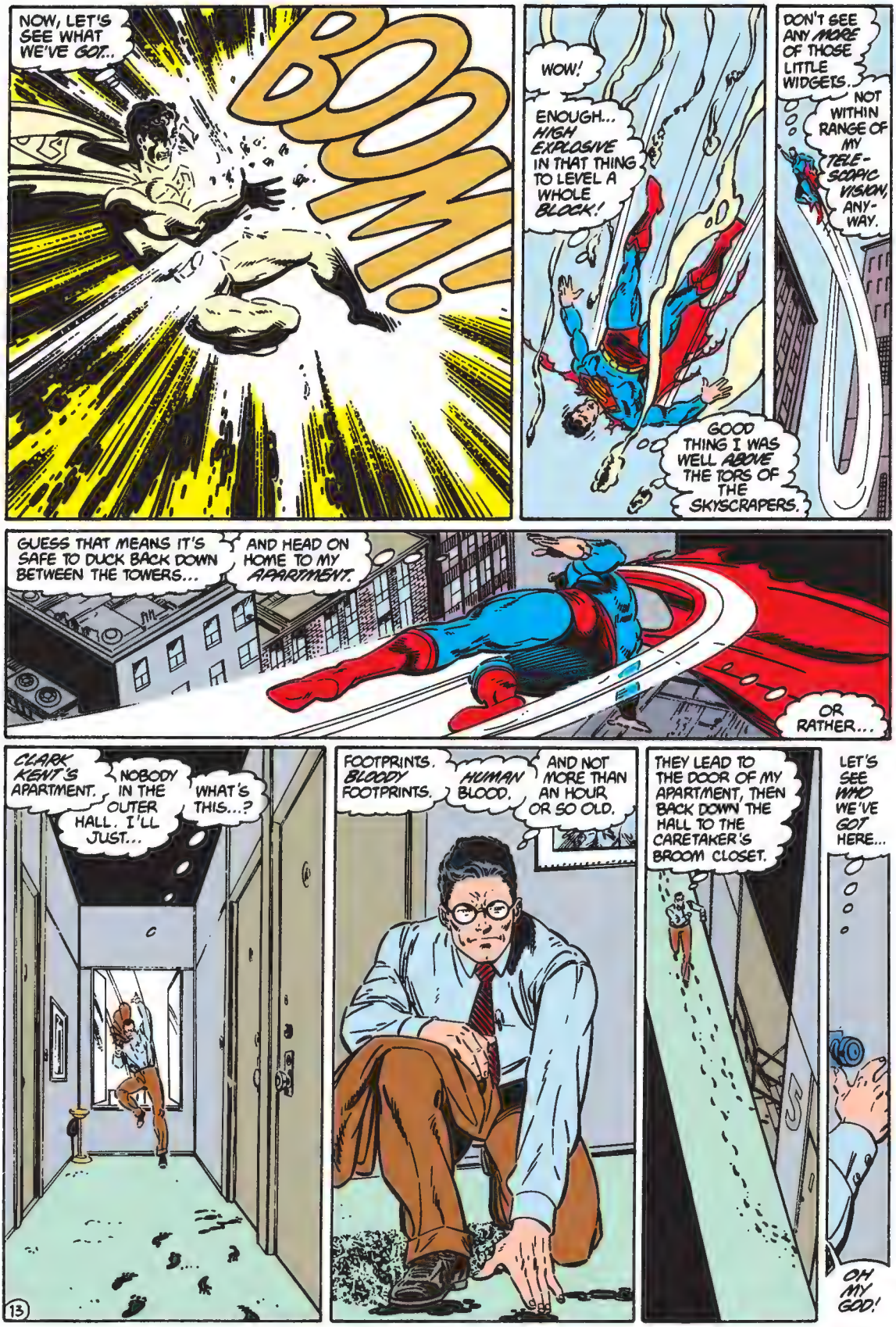

A MOMENT, MY DEAR, WHILE I ATTEND TO THIS TELEPHONIC INTERRUPTION.
AND FIND US A FRESH BOTTLE OF DOM PERIGNON.
ER...YES...
OH, LORD, WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I FEEL LIKE A CHRISTMAS TURKEY...
ALL TRUSSED UP IN THIS RIDICULOUS GOWN, THIS FRIVOLOUS HAIRDO. BUT--BUT IF I DON'T PLAY ALONG...
...I KNOW FULL WELL HE HAS THE POWER TO DESTROY ME--
--IN WAYS MUCH MORE INSIDIOUS THAN DEATH!
LUTHOR HERE.
WHAT? WHAT?!? THE IDIOTS! TERMINATE BOTH OF THEM, AT ONCE!
WHAT?
LOOK, I'M VERY BUSY HERE AT THE MOMENT. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR...
..I SEE. THIS BETTER BE OF ASTONISHING SIGNIFICANCE!
I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN.
FORGIVE ME, AMANDA. A PRESSING MATTER OF SECURITY I MUST ATTEND TO AT ONCE.
AMUSE YOURSELF FOR A WHILE.
I'LL BE BACK...
"...AS SOON AS I CAN."
WELL? REPORT! WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS WOMAN THOSE TWO FOOLS BROUGHT IN WITH THEM?
BETTER IF YOU JUDGE THAT FOR YOURSELF, MR. L.
TAKE A LOOK!
WE'VE GOT THE USUAL SURVEILLANCE SCANNERS IN HER HOLDING CELL.
LEXCORP
LEXCORP
8

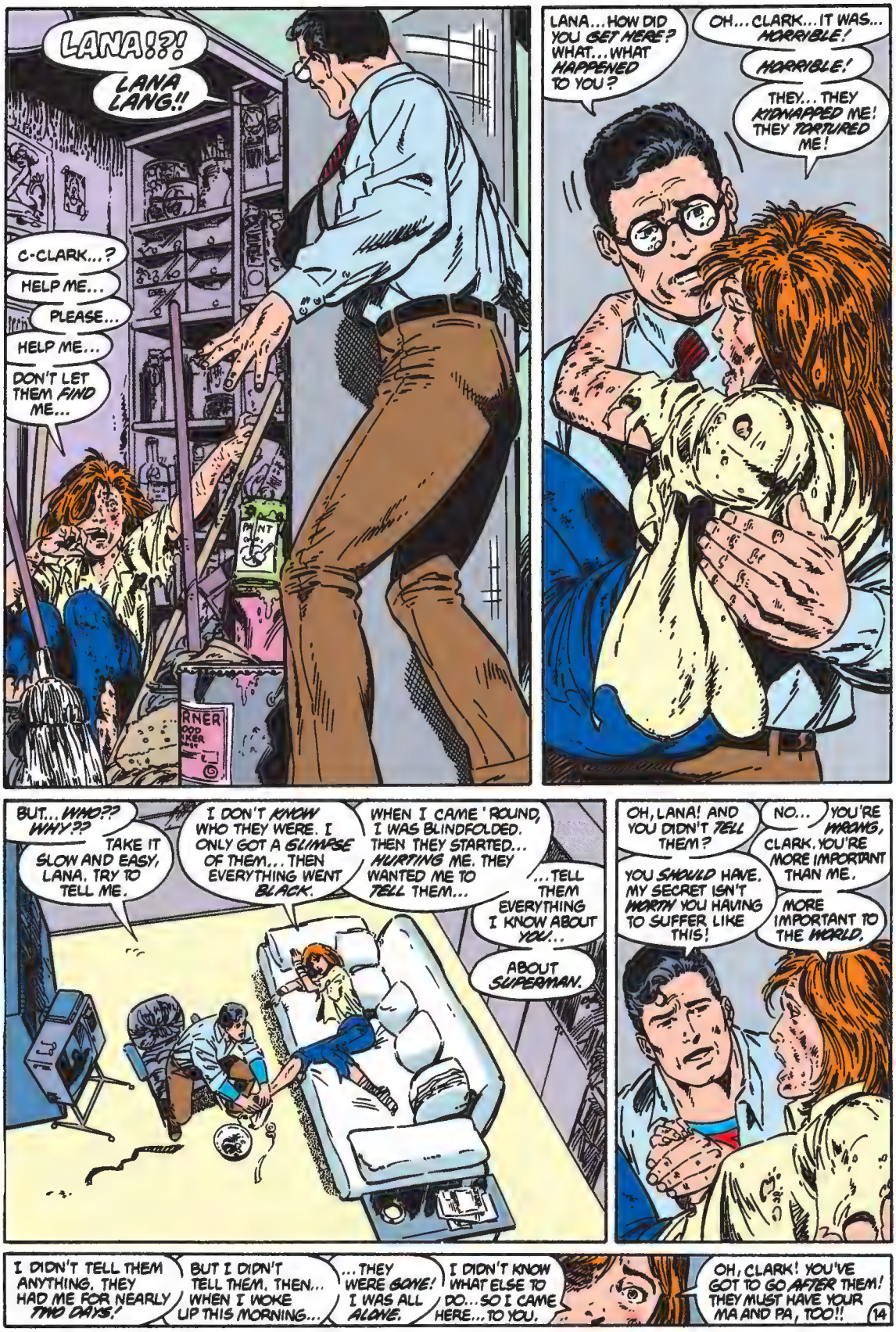

BREEN! JENNER! MY DEAR, DEAR CHAPS! HOW GOOD IT IS TO SEE YOU BOTH AGAIN!
HUH?
M-MR. L?
I--I THOUGHT WE WUZ IN T-TROUBLE...?
NONSENSE. NONSENSE! YOU HAVE DONE ME A GREAT SERVICE!
THERE WILL BE SPECIAL COMPENSATION IN YOUR PAY ENVELOPES NEXT WEEK.
ER--GEE!
THANKS, BOSS!
WELL, DON'T GET ALL JUBILANT JUST YET, LEX. THIS WOMAN MAY NOT BE AS MUCH USE TO YOU AS YOU'D HOPED.
HM? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DOCTOR KELLEY?
EXPLAIN YOURSELF.
SHE HAD A BAD ALLERGIC REACTION TO THE KNOCK-OUT DART BREEN SHOT HER WITH, SO I RAN A FEW TESTS, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.
SHE HAS ALMOST NO TOLERANCE FOR DRUGS. IF WE TRY TO USE A TRUTH SERUM ON HER, SHE'LL BE DEAD BEFORE SHE CAN TELL US ANYTHING.
HMM. HOW UNFORTUNATE...
HOW TERRIBLY UNFORTUNATE...
...FOR HER...
9

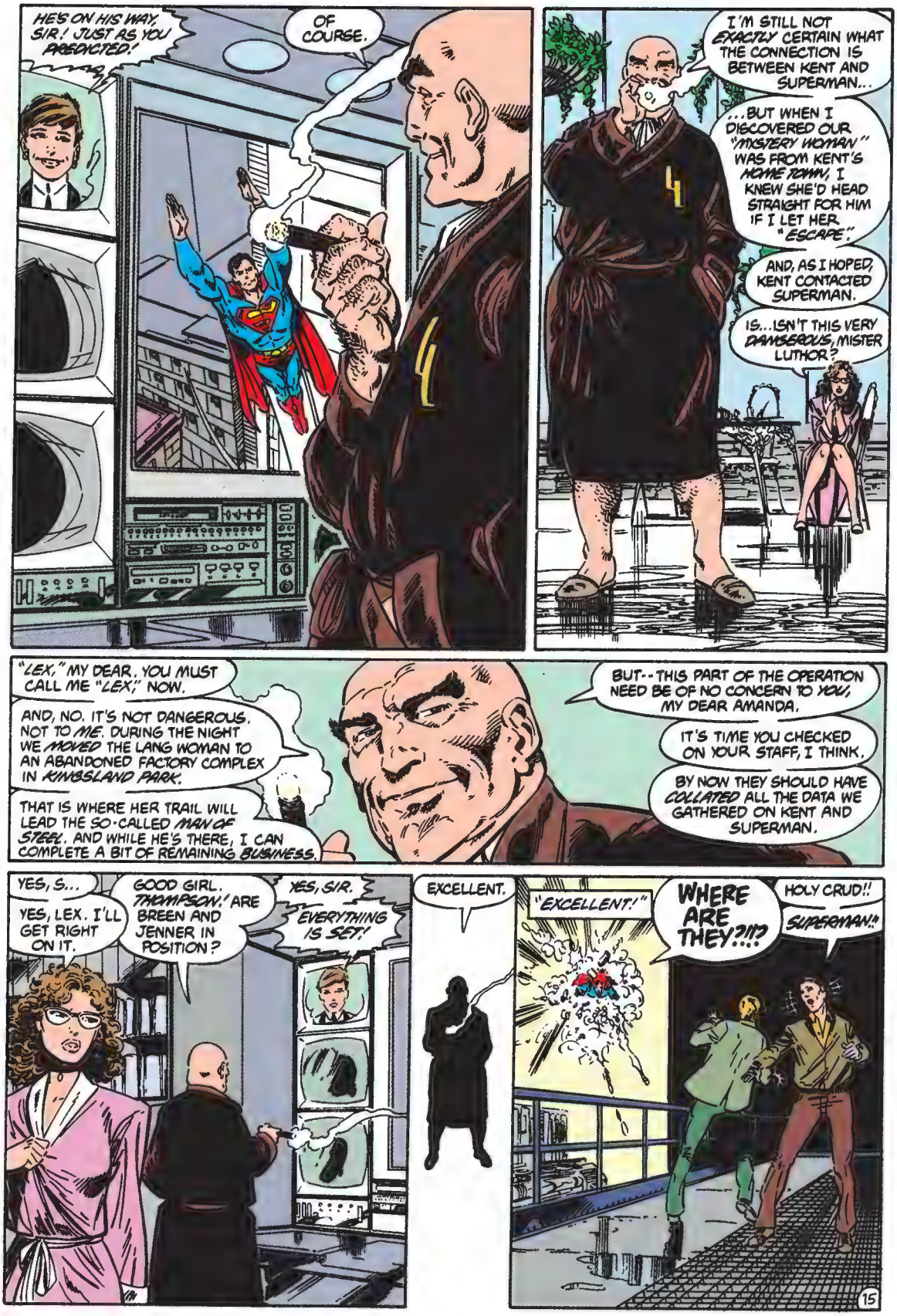

HMMM...
EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE FUNCTIONING AT MORE OR LESS NORMAL LEVELS.
NORMAL FOR ME, THAT IS.
I WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED FOR A WHILE THERE. AFTER MY FIRST EXPOSURE TO METALLO'S KRYPTONITE THE OTHER WEEK, IT TOOK SEVERAL DAYS FOR MY POWERS TO GET BACK UP TO SNUFF.
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE A PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO THE STUFF COULD STRIP ME OF MY POWERS PERMANENTLY!
ALWAYS ASSUMING IT DIDN'T KILL ME FIRST. I WONDER IF I COULD...
HEL-LO...?
WHAT'S THIS?
10


WELL, WELL! IT'S SOME KIND OF AERIAL TRACKING DEVICE...
A "FLYING EYE."
AND MY X-RAY VISION REVEALS IT TO BE A VERY SOPHISTICATED PIECE OF WORK.
IT'S EQUIPPED WITH PROXIMITY SENSORS-- SO I PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO SIMPLY PLUCK IT OUT OF THE AIR.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN DISCOVER JUST HOW GOOD IT IS.
NOT BAD. NOT BAD AT ALL.
IT'S KEEPING PACE WITH ME EASILY. IF THERE'S A HUMAN HAND AT THE CONTROLS, HE OR SHE IS PRETTY SLICK.
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.
IF THE COMPUTER BACK-UP HADN'T CUT IN AUTOMATICALLY, WE'VE LOST HIM.
SEE IF YOU CAN GET CLOSER. I'M LOSING RESOLUTION ON THE BIOMETRIC SCANNERS.
TRYING.
THE BIG "S" DOESN'T SEEM TO WANT US TO GET TOO CLOSE.
AND LOOK AT THE WAY HE KEEPS MOVING HIS HEAD-- VIBRATING IT ALMOST-- AT SUPER-SPEED.
I CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT OF HIS FACE.
11

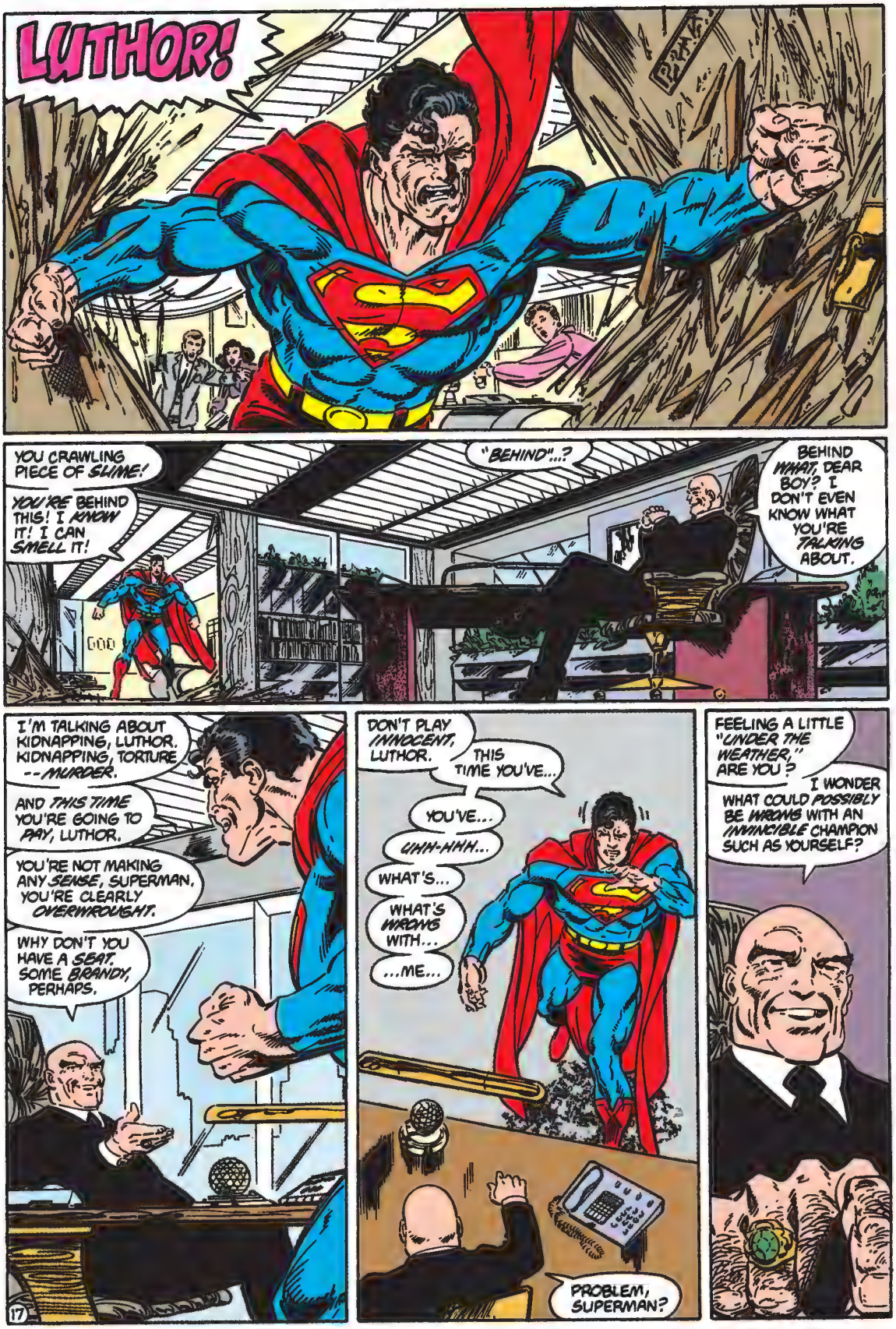
IT'S STILL WITH ME.
WELL, I HAVE MUCH BETTER THINGS TO DO TODAY THAN PLAY TAG WITH THIS NOSEY EIGHT-BALL.
AND THERE'S MY SOLUTION!
LUCKILY I ALWAYS CARRY A FEW DOLLARS INSIDE MY HOLLOW ELT BUCKLE.
GOOD AFTERNOON, SIR. I'D LIKE TO BUY YOUR ENTIRE STOCK!
S-SUPERMAN!!
NOW THEN--LET'S START BY LETTING OUR LITTLE FRIEND GET CLOSER...
...THEN, BY RELEASING ALL THE BALLOONS IN ITS PATH...
...I CAN CONFUSE THE PROXIMITY DETECTORS LONG ENOUGH...
...TO SNAG IT!
12

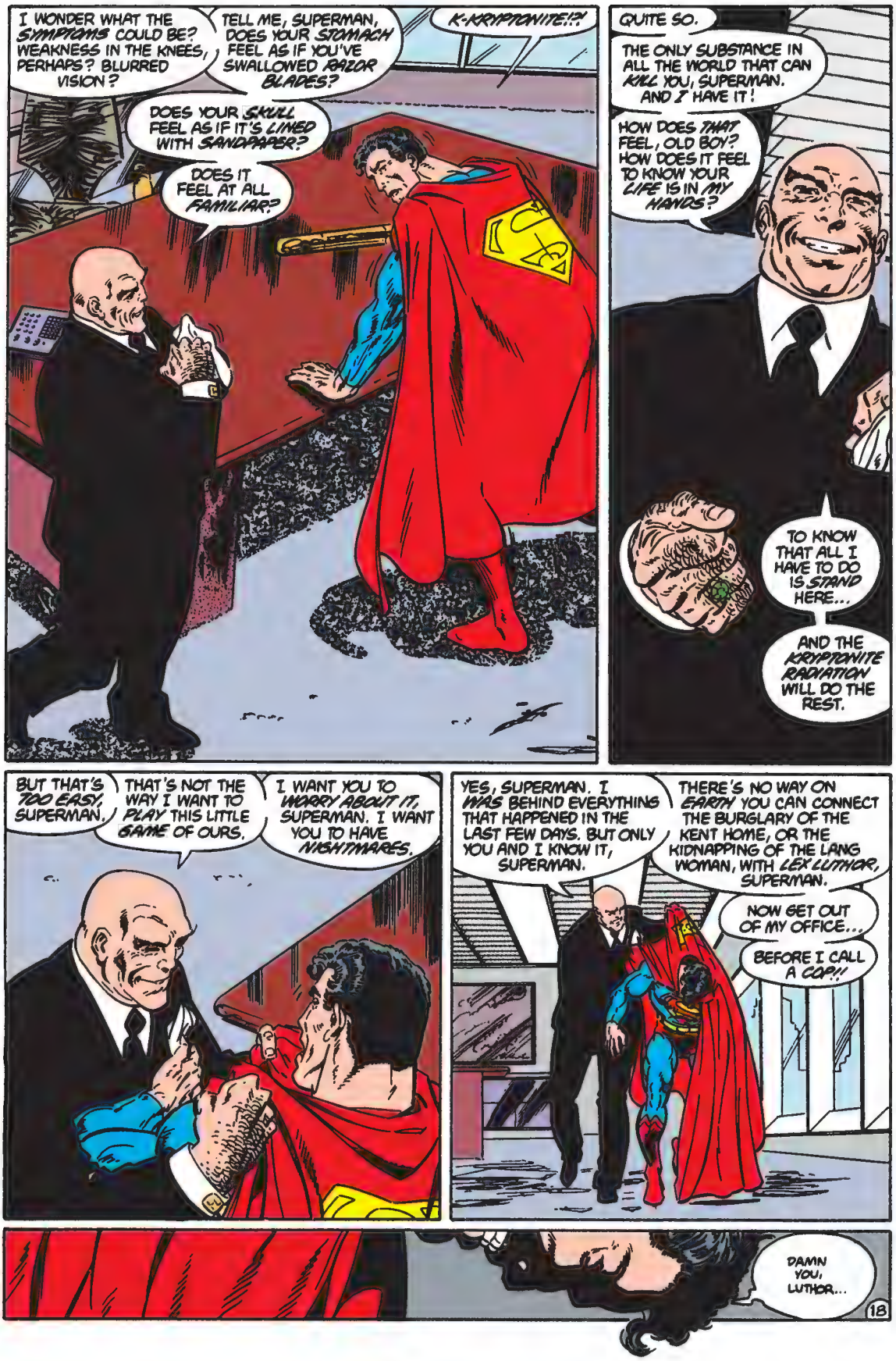

NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT...
BOOM!
WOW!
ENOUGH... HIGH EXPLOSIVE IN THAT THING TO LEVEL A WHOLE BLOCK!
GOOD THING I WAS WELL ABOVE THE TOPS OF THE SKYSCRAPERS.
DON'T SEE ANY MORE OF THOSE LITTLE WIDGETS...
NOT WITHIN RANGE OF MY TELESCOPIC VISION, ANYWAY.
GUESS THAT MEANS IT'S SAFE TO DUCK BACK DOWN BETWEEN THE TOWERS...
AND HEAD ON HOME TO MY APARTMENT.
OR RATHER...
CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT.
NOBODY IN THE OUTER HALL. I'LL JUST...
WHAT'S THIS...?
FOOTPRINTS. BLOODY FOOTPRINTS.
HUMAN BLOOD.
AND NOT MORE THAN AN HOUR OR SO OLD.
THEY LEAD TO THE DOOR OF MY APARTMENT, THEN BACK DOWN THE HALL TO THE CARETAKER'S BROOM CLOSET.
LET'S SEE WHO WE'VE GOT HERE...
OH MY GOD!
13

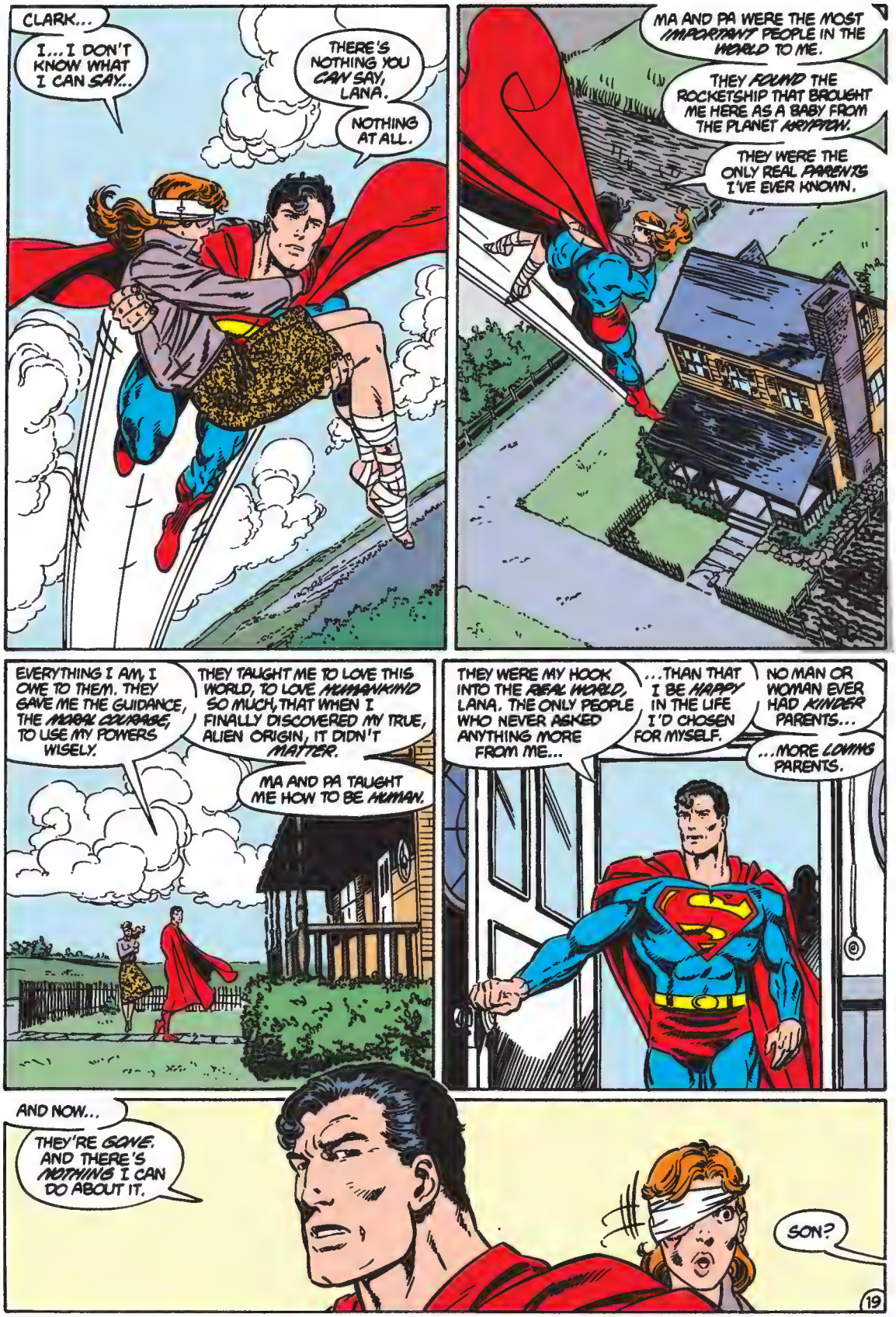

LANA!?!
LANA LANG!!
C-CLARK...?
HELP ME...
PLEASE...
HELP ME...
DON'T LET THEM FIND ME...
LANA... HOW DID YOU GET HERE? WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
OH... CLARK... IT WAS... HORRIBLE!
HORRIBLE!
THEY... THEY KIDNAPPED ME! THEY TORTURED ME!
BUT... WHO?? WHY??
TAKE IT SLOW AND EASY, LANA. TRY TO TELL ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHO THEY WERE. I ONLY GOT A GLIMPSE OF THEM... THEN EVERYTHING WENT BLACK.
WHEN I CAME 'ROUND, I WAS BLINDFOLDED. THEN THEY STARTED... HURTING ME. THEY WANTED ME TO TELL THEM...
...TELL THEM EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT YOU...
ABOUT SUPERMAN.
OH, LANA! AND YOU DIDN'T TELL THEM?
NO... YOU'RE WRONG, CLARK. YOU'RE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ME.
YOU SHOULD HAVE. MY SECRET ISN'T WORTH YOU HAVING TO SUFFER LIKE THIS!
MORE IMPORTANT TO THE WORLD.
I DIDN'T TELL THEM ANYTHING. THEY HAD ME FOR NEARLY TWO DAYS!
BUT I DIDN'T TELL THEM. THEN... WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING...
...THEY WERE GONE! I WAS ALL ALONE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO... SO I CAME HERE... TO YOU.
OH, CLARK! YOU'VE GOT TO GO AFTER THEM! THEY MUST HAVE YOUR MA AND PA, TOO!!
14

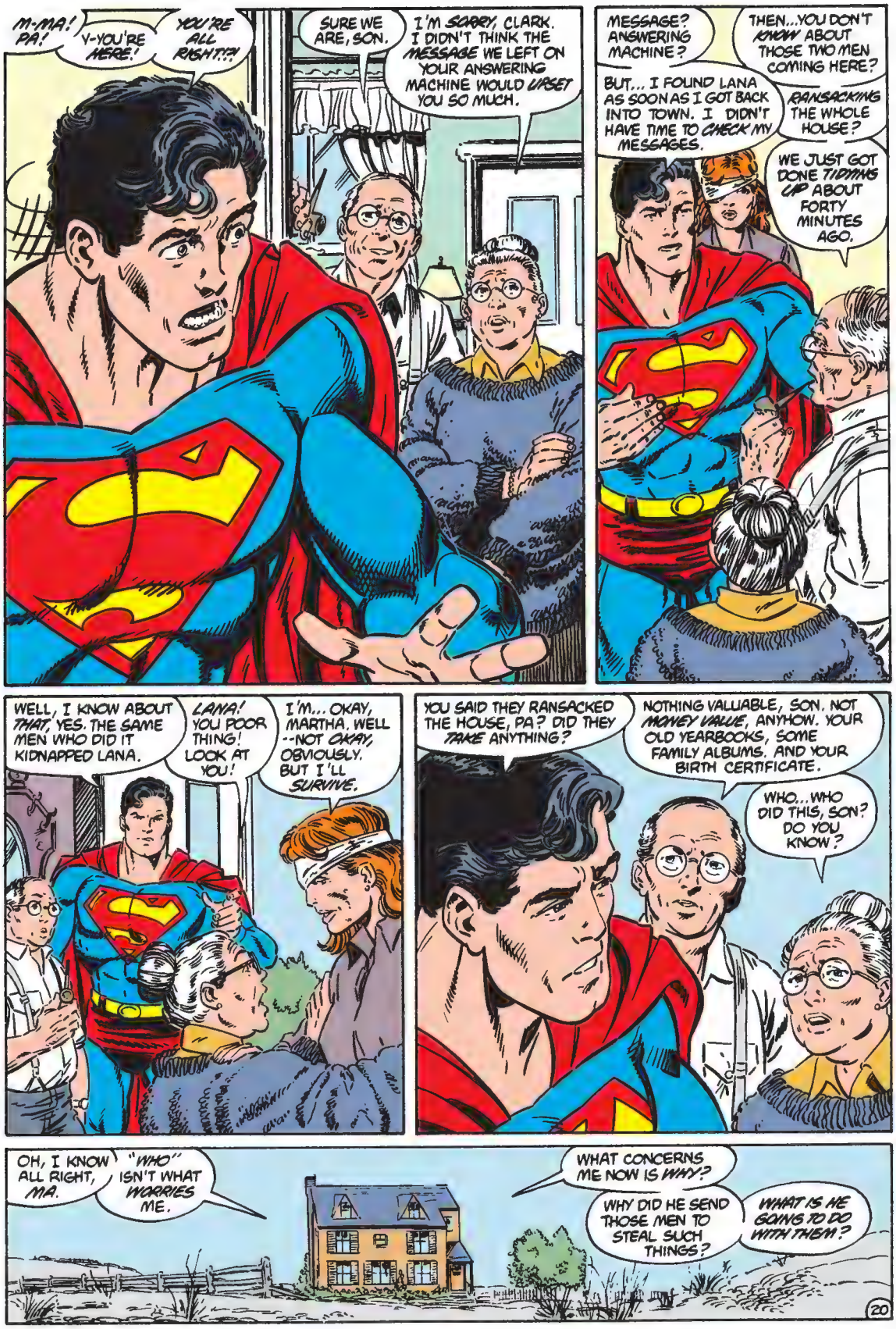

HE'S ON HIS WAY, SIR! JUST AS YOU PREDICTED!
OF COURSE.
I'M STILL NOT EXACTLY CERTAIN WHAT THE CONNECTION IS BETWEEN KENT AND SUPERMAN...
...BUT WHEN I DISCOVERED OUR "MYSTERY WOMAN" WAS FROM KENT'S HOME TOWN, I KNEW SHE'D HEAD STRAIGHT FOR HIM IF I LET HER "ESCAPE".
AND, AS I HOPED, KENT CONTACTED SUPERMAN.
IS...ISN'T THIS VERY DANGEROUS, MISTER LUTHOR?
"LEX," MY DEAR, YOU MUST CALL ME "LEX," NOW.
AND, NO. IT'S NOT DANGEROUS, NOT TO ME. DURING THE NIGHT WE MOVED THE LANG WOMAN TO AN ABANDONED FACTORY COMPLEX IN KINGSLAND PARK.
THAT IS WHERE HER TRAIL WILL LEAD THE SO-CALLED MAN OF STEEL. AND WHILE HE'S THERE, I CAN COMPLETE A BIT OF REMAINING BUSINESS.
BUT--THIS PART OF THE OPERATION NEED BE OF NO CONCERN TO YOU, MY DEAR AMANDA.
IT'S TIME YOU CHECKED ON YOUR STAFF, I THINK.
BY NOW THEY SHOULD HAVE COLLATED ALL THE DATA WE GATHERED ON KENT AND SUPERMAN.
YES, S...
YES, LEX. I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT.
GOOD GIRL, THOMPSON. ARE BREEN AND JENNER IN POSITION?
YES, SIR. EVERYTHING IS SET.
EXCELLENT.
"EXCELLENT!"
WHERE ARE THEY?!!?
HOLY CRUD!! SUPERMAN!!
15

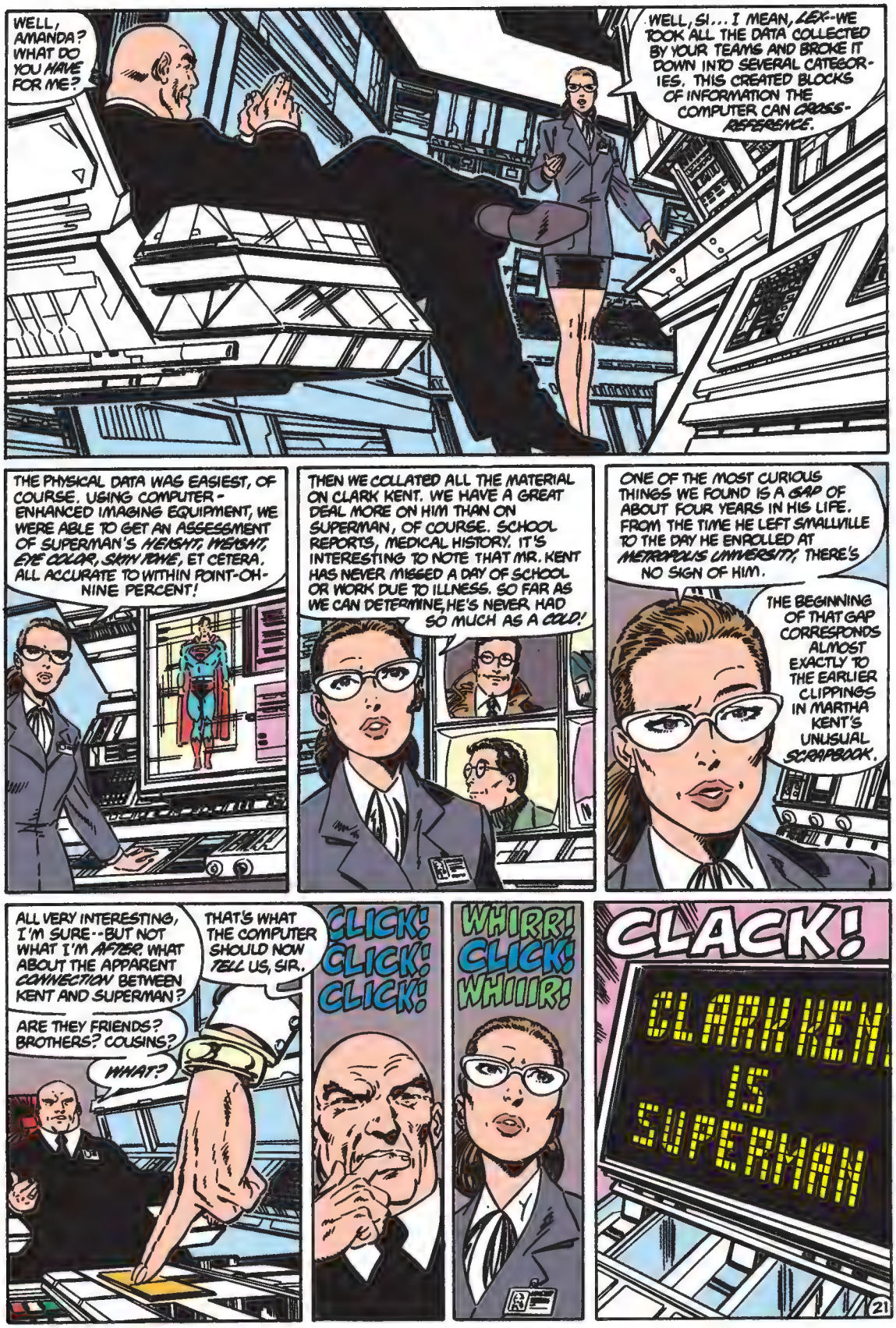
THE KENTS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THEM? START TALKING, VERMIN...
...BEFORE I SQUASH YOU LIKE THE BUGS YOU ARE!
HUH?
WH-WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, MAN?
WE DIDN'T...
WANDERCOM
POST NO BILLS
WANDERCOM
BOW!
N
A
K6

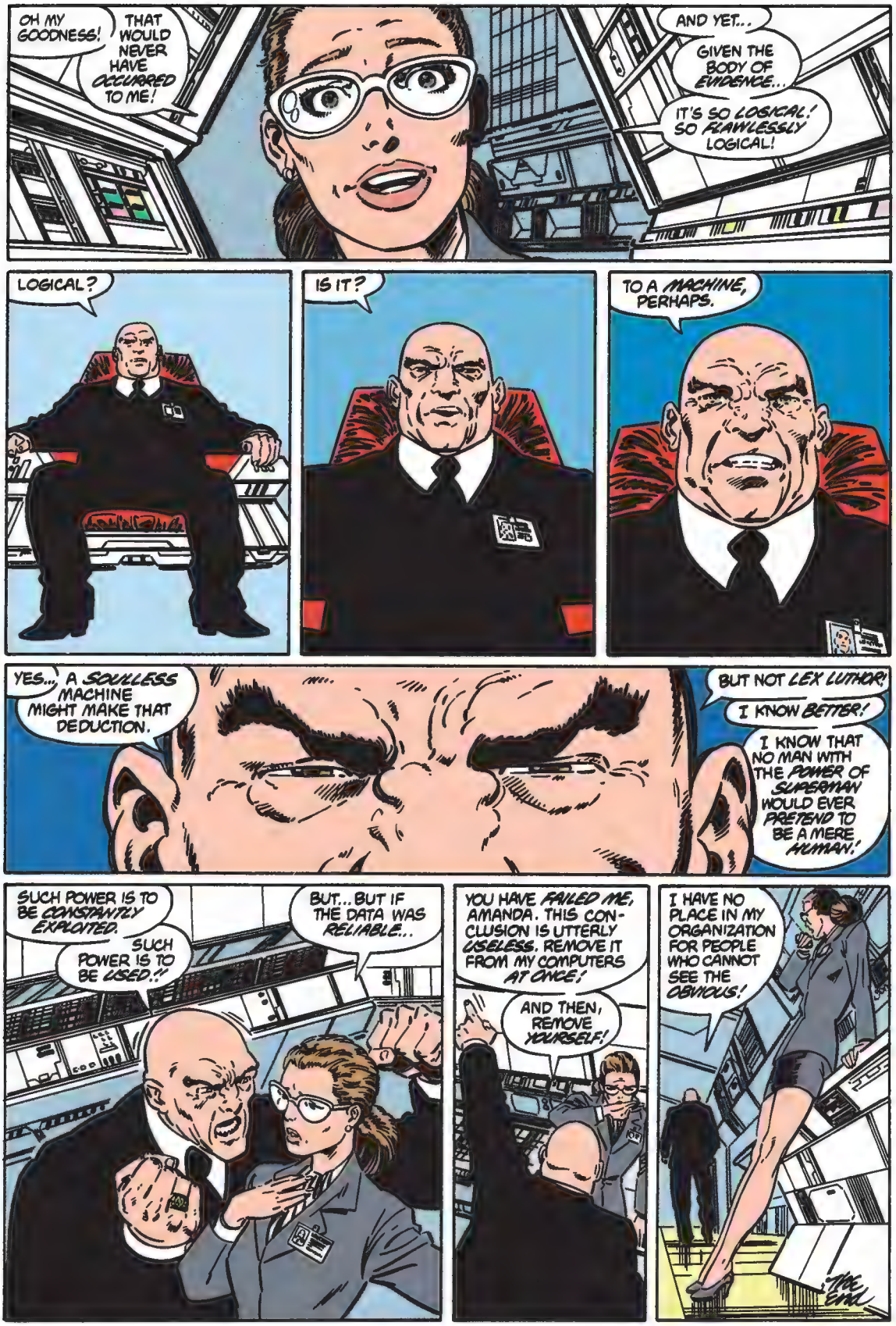

LUTHOR!
PRAK
YOU CRAWLING PIECE OF SLIME!
YOU'RE BEHIND THIS! I KNOW IT! I CAN SMELL IT!
"BEHIND"...?
BEHIND WHAT, DEAR BOY? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I'M TALKING ABOUT KIDNAPPING, LUTHOR. KIDNAPPING, TORTURE --MURDER.
AND THIS TIME YOU'RE GOING TO PAY, LUTHOR.
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE, SUPERMAN. YOU'RE CLEARLY OVERWROUGHT.
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A SEAT. SOME BRANDY, PERHAPS.
17
DON'T PLAY INNOCENT, LUTHOR.
THIS TIME YOU'VE...
YOU'VE...
UHH-HHH...
WHAT'S...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH...
...ME...
PROBLEM, SUPERMAN?
FEELING A LITTLE "UNDER THE WEATHER," ARE YOU?
I WONDER WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WRONG WITH AN INVINCIBLE CHAMPION SUCH AS YOURSELF?

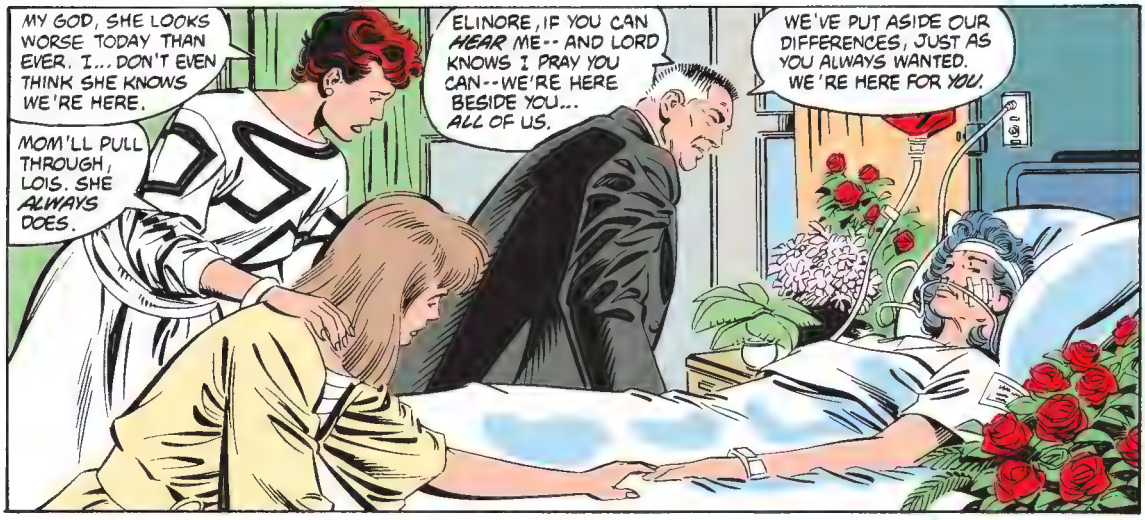

I WONDER WHAT THE SYMPTOMS COULD BE? WEAKNESS IN THE KNEES, PERHAPS? BLURRED VISION?
TELL ME, SUPERMAN, DOES YOUR STOMACH FEEL AS IF YOU'VE SWALLOWED RAZOR BLADES?
K-KRYPTONITE!?!
DOES YOUR SKULL FEEL AS IF IT'S LINED WITH SANDPAPER?
DOES IT FEEL AT ALL FAMILIAR?
QUITE SO.
THE ONLY SUBSTANCE IN ALL THE WORLD THAT CAN KILL YOU, SUPERMAN. AND I HAVE IT!
HOW DOES THAT FEEL, OLD BOY? HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW YOUR LIFE IS IN MY HANDS?
TO KNOW THAT ALL I HAVE TO DO IS STAND HERE...
AND THE KRYPTONITE RADIATION WILL DO THE REST.
BUT THAT'S TOO EASY, SUPERMAN.
THAT'S NOT THE WAY I WANT TO PLAY THIS LITTLE GAME OF OURS.
I WANT YOU TO WORRY ABOUT IT, SUPERMAN. I WANT YOU TO HAVE NIGHTMARES.
YES, SUPERMAN. I WAS BEHIND EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. BUT ONLY YOU AND I KNOW IT, SUPERMAN.
THERE'S NO WAY ON EARTH YOU CAN CONNECT THE BURGLARY OF THE KENT HOME, OR THE KIDNAPPING OF THE LANG WOMAN, WITH LEX LUTHOR, SUPERMAN.
NOW GET OUT OF MY OFFICE...
BEFORE I CALL A COP!!
DAMN YOU, LUTHOR...
18

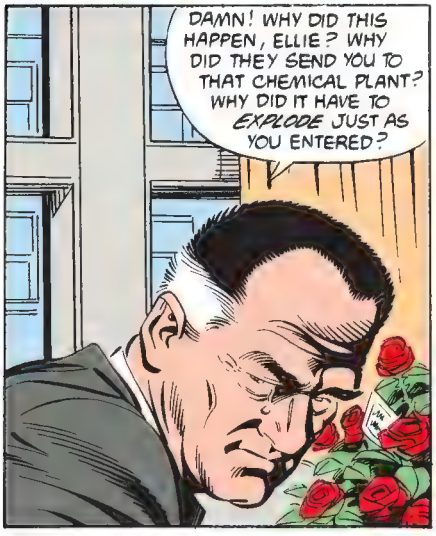

CLARK...
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN SAY...
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN SAY, LANA.
NOTHING AT ALL.
MA AND PA WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TO ME.
THEY FOUND THE ROCKETSHIP THAT BROUGHT ME HERE AS A BABY FROM THE PLANET KRYPTON.
THEY WERE THE ONLY REAL PARENTS I'VE EVER KNOWN.
EVERYTHING I AM, I OWE TO THEM. THEY GAVE ME THE GUIDANCE, THE MORAL COURAGE, TO USE MY POWERS WISELY.
THEY TAUGHT ME TO LOVE THIS WORLD, TO LOVE HUMANKIND SO MUCH, THAT WHEN I FINALLY DISCOVERED MY TRUE, ALIEN ORIGIN, IT DIDN'T MATTER.
MA AND PA TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE HUMAN.
THEY WERE MY HOOK INTO THE REAL WORLD, LANA. THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO NEVER ASKED ANYTHING MORE FROM ME...
...THAN THAT I BE HAPPY IN THE LIFE I'D CHOSEN FOR MYSELF.
NO MAN OR WOMAN EVER HAD KINDER PARENTS...
...MORE LOVING PARENTS.
AND NOW...
THEY'RE GONE. AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
SON?
19


M-MA! PA!
Y-YOU'RE HERE!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!?!
SURE WE ARE, SON.
I'M SORRY, CLARK. I DIDN'T THINK THE MESSAGE WE LEFT ON YOUR ANSWERING MACHINE WOULD UPSET YOU SO MUCH.
MESSAGE? ANSWERING MACHINE?
THEN...YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THOSE TWO MEN COMING HERE?
BUT... I FOUND LANA AS SOON AS I GOT BACK INTO TOWN. I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO CHECK MY MESSAGES.
RANSACKING THE WHOLE HOUSE?
WE JUST GOT DONE TIDYING UP ABOUT FORTY MINUTES AGO.
WELL, I KNOW ABOUT THAT, YES. THE SAME MEN WHO DID IT KIDNAPPED LANA.
LANA! YOU POOR THING! LOOK AT YOU!
I'M... OKAY, MARTHA. WELL --NOT OKAY, OBVIOUSLY. BUT I'LL SURVIVE.
YOU SAID THEY RANSACKED THE HOUSE, PA? DID THEY TAKE ANYTHING?
NOTHING VALUABLE, SON. NOT MONEY VALUE, ANYHOW. YOUR OLD YEARBOOKS, SOME FAMILY ALBUMS, AND YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE.
WHO...WHO DID THIS, SON? DO YOU KNOW?
OH, I KNOW ALL RIGHT, MA.
"WHO" ISN'T WHAT WORRIES ME.
WHAT CONCERNS ME NOW IS WHY?
WHY DID HE SEND THOSE MEN TO STEAL SUCH THINGS?
WHAT IS HE GOING TO DO WITH THEM?
20


WELL, AMANDA? WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?
WELL, SI... I MEAN, LEX--WE TOOK ALL THE DATA COLLECTED BY YOUR TEAMS AND BROKE IT DOWN INTO SEVERAL CATEGORIES. THIS CREATED BLOCKS OF INFORMATION THE COMPUTER CAN CROSS-REFERENCE.
THE PHYSICAL DATA WAS EASIEST, OF COURSE. USING COMPUTER-ENHANCED IMAGING EQUIPMENT, WE WERE ABLE TO GET AN ASSESSMENT OF SUPERMAN'S HEIGHT, WEIGHT, EYE COLOR, SKIN TONE, ET CETERA. ALL ACCURATE TO WITHIN POINT-OH-NINE PERCENT!
THEN WE COLLATED ALL THE MATERIAL ON CLARK KENT. WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL MORE ON HIM THAN ON SUPERMAN, OF COURSE. SCHOOL REPORTS, MEDICAL HISTORY. IT'S INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT MR. KENT HAS NEVER MISSED A DAY OF SCHOOL OR WORK DUE TO ILLNESS. SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, HE'S NEVER HAD SO MUCH AS A COLD!
ONE OF THE MOST CURIOUS THINGS WE FOUND IS A GAP OF ABOUT FOUR YEARS IN HIS LIFE. FROM THE TIME HE LEFT SMALLVILLE TO THE DAY HE ENROLLED AT METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY, THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM.
THE BEGINNING OF THAT GAP CORRESPONDS ALMOST EXACTLY TO THE EARLIER CLIPPINGS IN MARTHA KENT'S UNUSUAL SCRAPBOOK.
ALL VERY INTERESTING, I'M SURE--BUT NOT WHAT I'M AFTER. WHAT ABOUT THE APPARENT CONNECTION BETWEEN KENT AND SUPERMAN?
ARE THEY FRIENDS? BROTHERS? COUSINS?
WHAT?
THAT'S WHAT THE COMPUTER SHOULD NOW TELL US, SIR.
CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!
WHIRR! CLICK! WHIIR!
CLACK!
CLARK KENT IS SUPERMAN
21


OH MY GOODNESS!
THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED TO ME!
AND YET...
GIVEN THE BODY OF EVIDENCE...
IT'S SO LOGICAL! SO FLAWLESSLY LOGICAL!
LOGICAL?
IS IT?
TO A MACHINE, PERHAPS.
YES... A SOULLESS MACHINE MIGHT MAKE THAT DEDUCTION.
BUT NOT LEX LUTHOR!
I KNOW BETTER!
I KNOW THAT NO MAN WITH THE POWER OF SUPERMAN WOULD EVER PRETEND TO BE A MERE HUMAN!
SUCH POWER IS TO BE CONSTANTLY EXPLOITED.
SUCH POWER IS TO BE USED!!
BUT... BUT IF THE DATA WAS RELIABLE...
YOU HAVE FAILED ME, AMANDA. THIS CONCLUSION IS UTTERLY USELESS. REMOVE IT FROM MY COMPUTERS AT ONCE!
AND THEN, REMOVE YOURSELF!
I HAVE NO PLACE IN MY ORGANIZATION FOR PEOPLE WHO CANNOT SEE THE OBVIOUS!
THE END


MY GOD, SHE LOOKS WORSE TODAY THAN EVER. I... DON'T EVEN THINK SHE KNOWS WE'RE HERE.
MOM'LL PULL THROUGH, LOIS. SHE ALWAYS DOES.
ELINORE, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME-- AND LORD KNOWS I PRAY YOU CAN--WE'RE HERE BESIDE YOU... ALL OF US.
WE'VE PUT ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES, JUST AS YOU ALWAYS WANTED. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

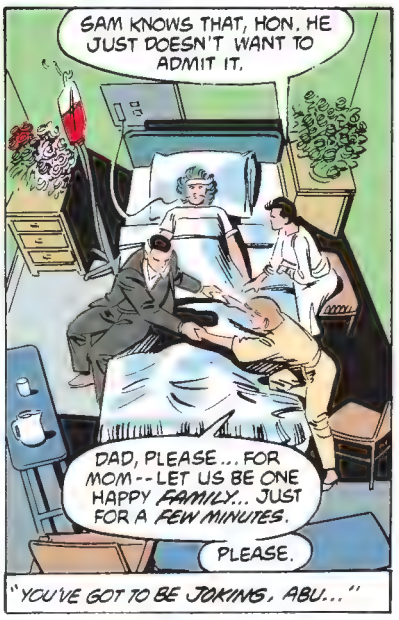

DAMN! WHY DID THIS HAPPEN, ELLIE? WHY DID THEY SEND YOU TO THAT CHEMICAL PLANT? WHY DID IT HAVE TO EXPLODE JUST AS YOU ENTERED?

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THERE. NOW YOU'RE DYING BECAUSE OF SOME LOUSY FREAK ACCIDENT THAT--
SAM... DON'T. DON'T GO ON.

LOIS, I THINK SOMETIMES WE'VE GOT A LOUSY BLACK CLOUD OVER THIS FAMILY. FIRST MY BLINDNESS, NOW THIS...
LUCY, HONEY, DON'T DO THIS TO YOURSELF.

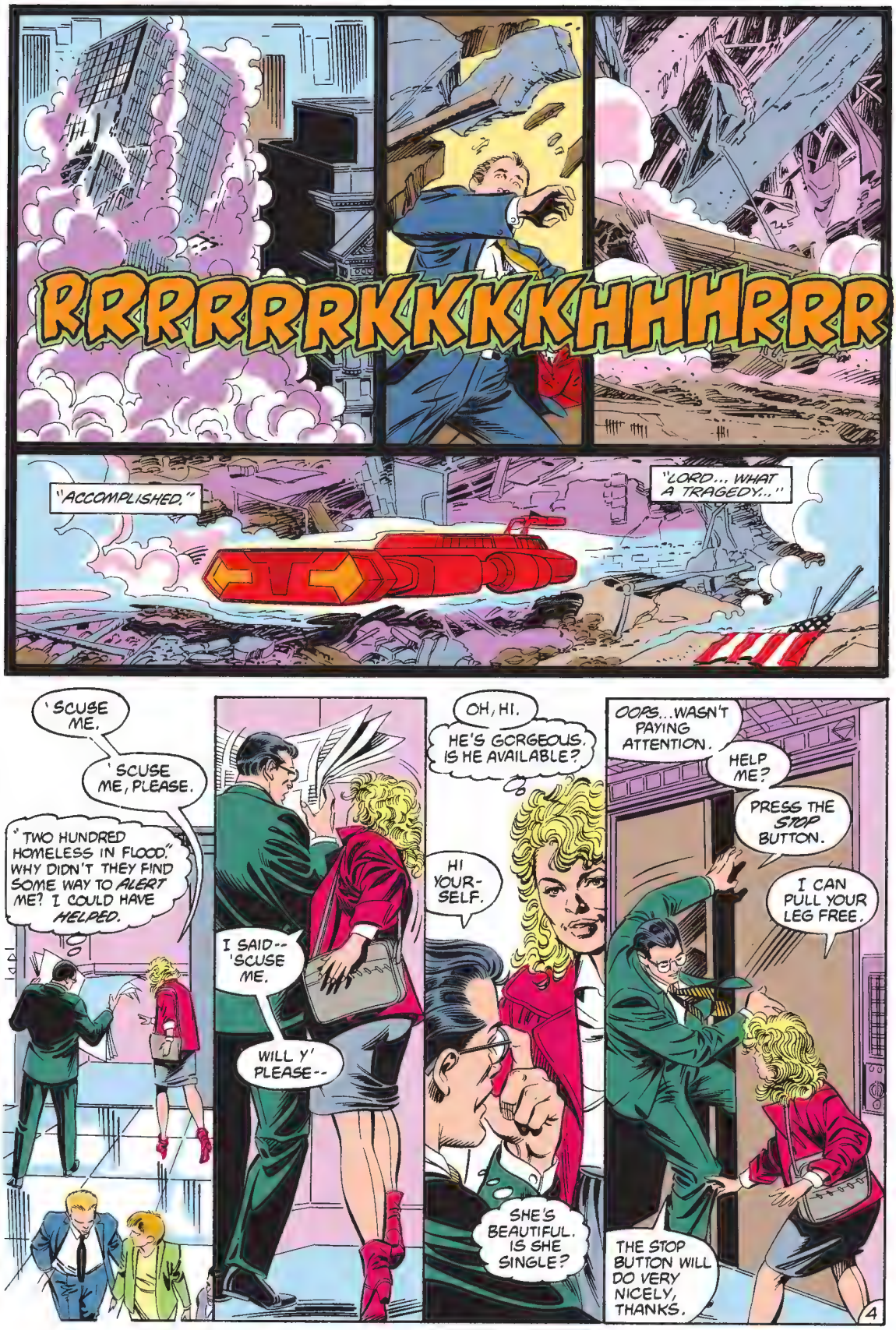
YOU RECOVERED.
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME MOM'LL GET BETTER, TOO? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, LOIS?

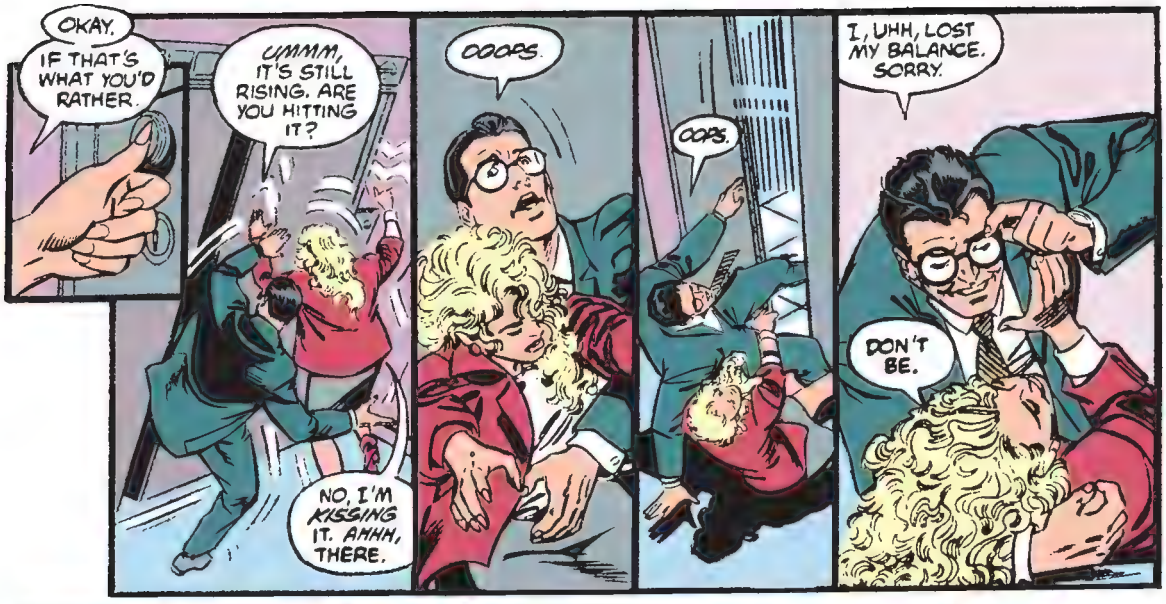
I... NO... NO.
LUCY, I'M REALLY GLAD YOU CAME. I KNOW YOUR MOTHER APPRECIATES IT.
LOIS IS HERE TOO, DAD.

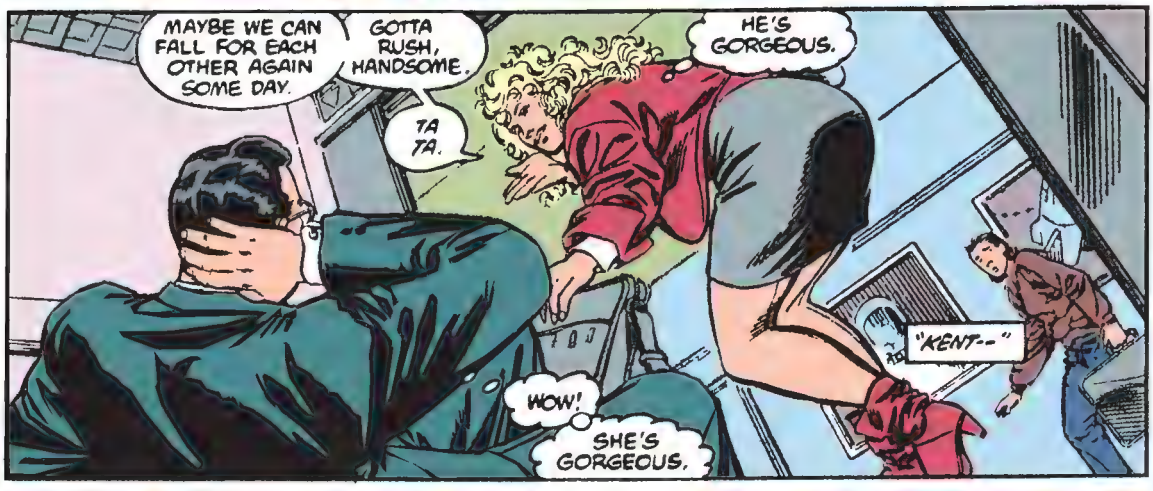

SAM KNOWS THAT, HON. HE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT.
DAD, PLEASE... FOR MOM--LET US BE ONE HAPPY FAMILY... JUST FOR A FEW MINUTES.
PLEASE.
"YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING, ABU..."

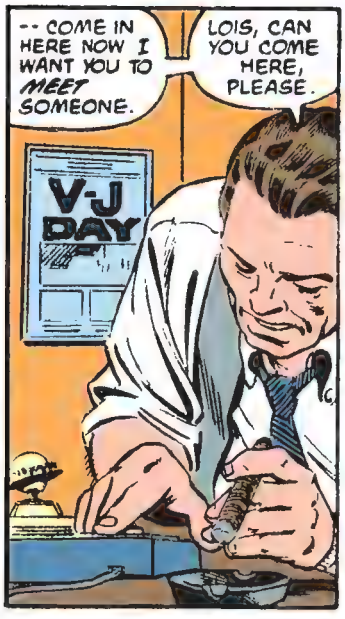
...THAT FIFTH-RATE KHADDAFY SHOULD BE THANKING US IN HIS PRAYERS EACH NIGHT THAT WE ALLOW HIM TO REMAIN IN POWER.
WE CONTROL THE OIL IN YOUR COUNTRY. AND WE CONTROL YOUR PRESIDENT.
NO, MR. JOHNSON. THAT IS WHERE YOU ARE WRONG.
NOBODY, MR. JOHNSON. NOT YOU. NOT THE AMERICANS. NOT THE RUSSIANS. NOBODY CONTROLS US. WE ARE NOT ALIGNED WITH ANY POWER, ESPECIALLY NOT SOME UNITED STATES BUSINESS CORPORATION.
I SUGGEST YOU LEARN THE TRUTH, MR. JOHNSON, AS BITTER A PILL AS IT MAY BE.
AND, UNTIL YOU DO--
-- GOOD DAY.
STINKING ARABS THINK THEY OWN THE WORLD.
LET'S GET ON TO OTHER BUSINESS, SHALL WE?
THE TAKEOVER OF TIMELESS PUBLICATIONS IS PROCEEDING AS PLANNED. WE'VE...
"NOW..."
BLEEP
...IT'S TIME.
"DISTANCE: 76 METERS AND CLOSING."
"LOCK ON TARGET."
"IN POSITION AND LOCKED.
"AWAITING YOUR COMMAND."
ZZZZWHHCCCHHHMM
2

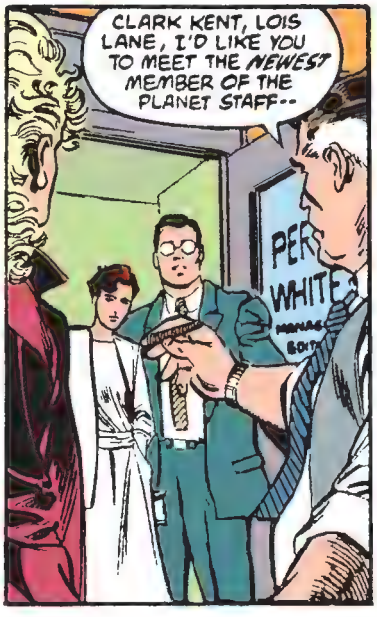
"LIFE READINGS?"
SSKKKRRRP
"SINGLE BOARDROOM OCCUPIED. JANITORIAL STAFF ON HOLIDAY."
"PROCEED!"
KLIK
KLIK
THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
MAN O' WAR!
SSSKKPAAAAAKKKK
AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN.
MARV WOLFMAN writer
JERRY ORDWAY penciller
MIKE MACHLAN inker
JOHN COSTANZA letterer
TOM ZIUKO colorist
ANDY HELFER editor
3


RRRRRRKKKKHHHRRR
"ACCOMPLISHED."
"LORD... WHAT A TRAGEDY..."
'SCUSE ME.
'SCUSE ME, PLEASE.
"TWO HUNDRED HOMELESS IN FLOOD." WHY DIDN'T THEY FIND SOME WAY TO ALERT ME? I COULD HAVE HELPED.
I SAID-- 'SCUSE ME.
WILL Y' PLEASE--
OH, HI.
HE'S GORGEOUS. IS HE AVAILABLE?
HI YOUR-SELF.
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL. IS SHE SINGLE?
OOPS...WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.
HELP ME?
PRESS THE STOP BUTTON.
I CAN PULL YOUR LEG FREE.
THE STOP BUTTON WILL DO VERY NICELY, THANKS.
4

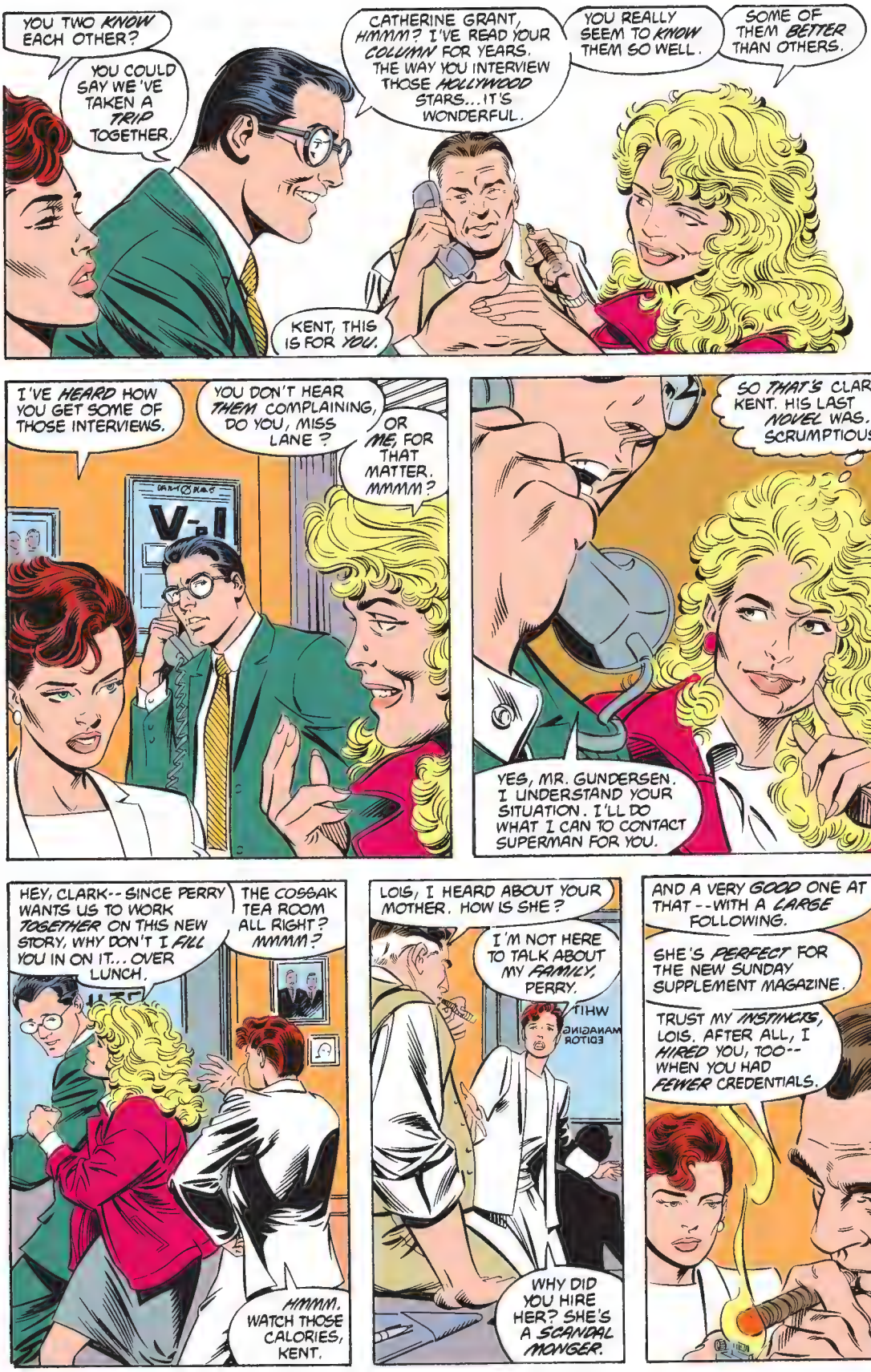

OKAY.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'D RATHER.
UMMM, IT'S STILL RISING. ARE YOU HITTING IT?
NO, I'M KISSING IT. AHHH, THERE.
OOOPS.
OOPS.
I, UHH, LOST MY BALANCE. SORRY.
DON'T BE.

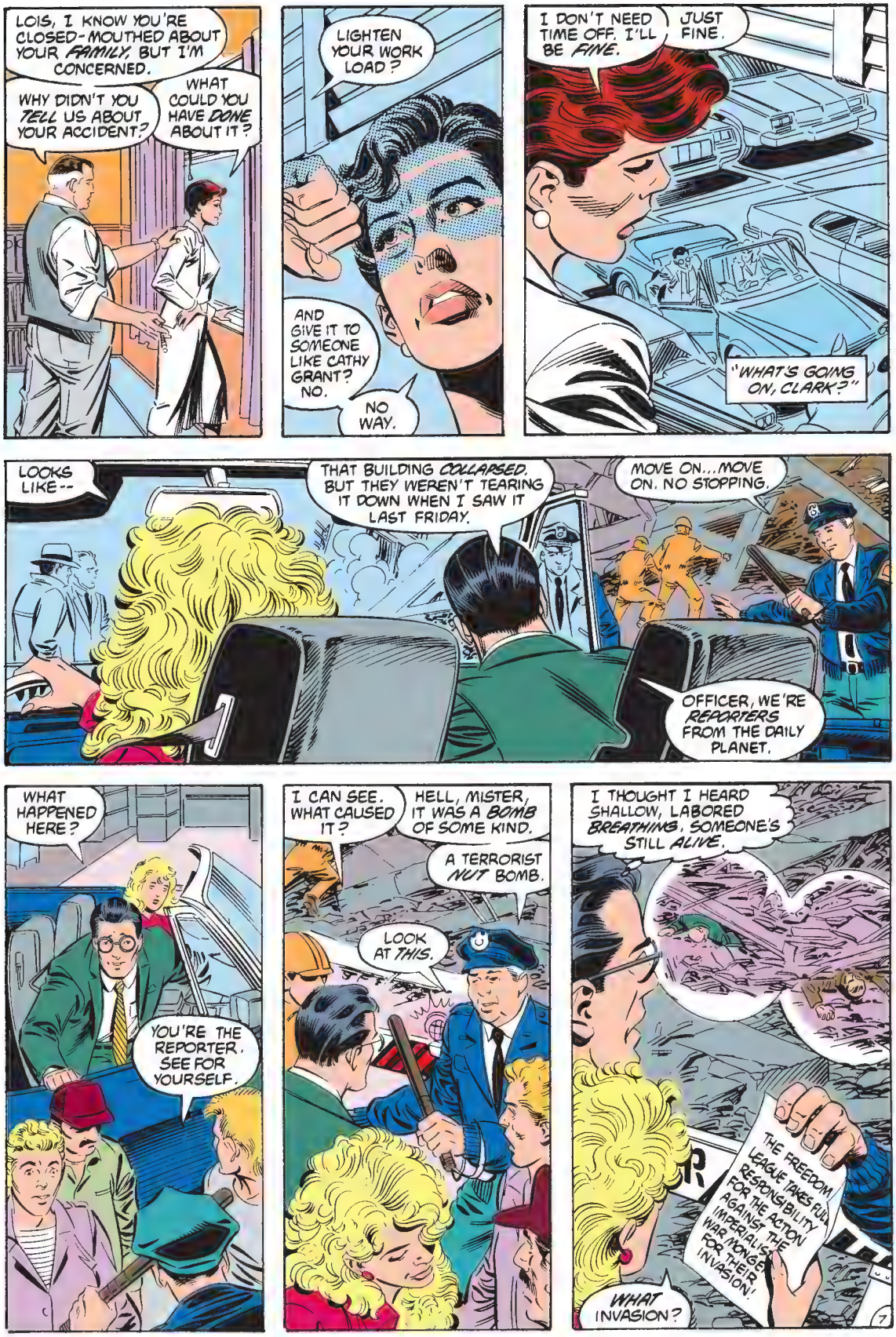

MAYBE WE CAN FALL FOR EACH OTHER AGAIN SOME DAY.
GOTTA RUSH, HANDSOME.
TA TA.
HE'S GORGEOUS.
"KENT--"
WOW!
SHE'S GORGEOUS.

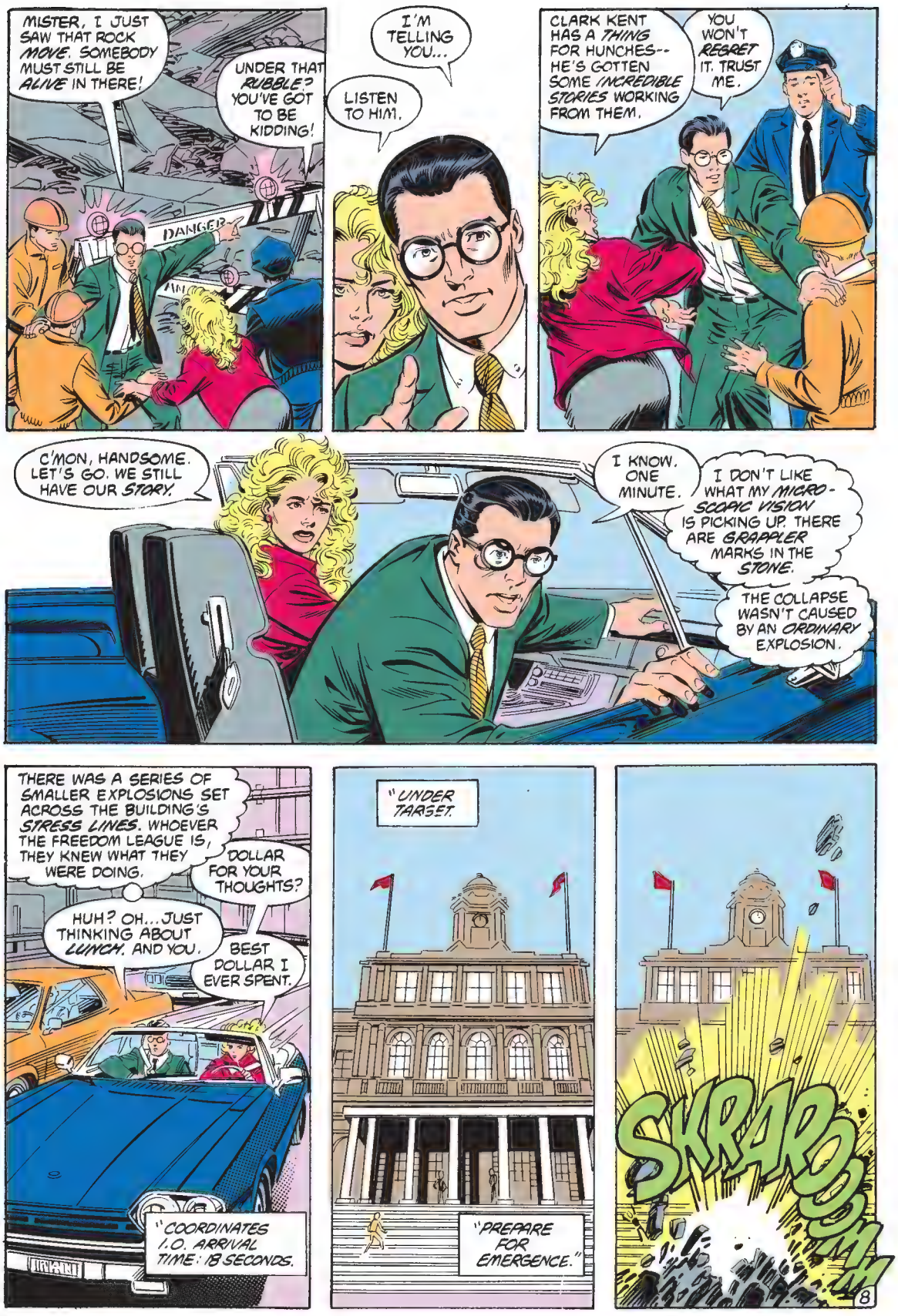

-- COME IN HERE NOW I WANT YOU TO MEET SOMEONE.
LOIS, CAN YOU COME HERE, PLEASE.
V-J DAY

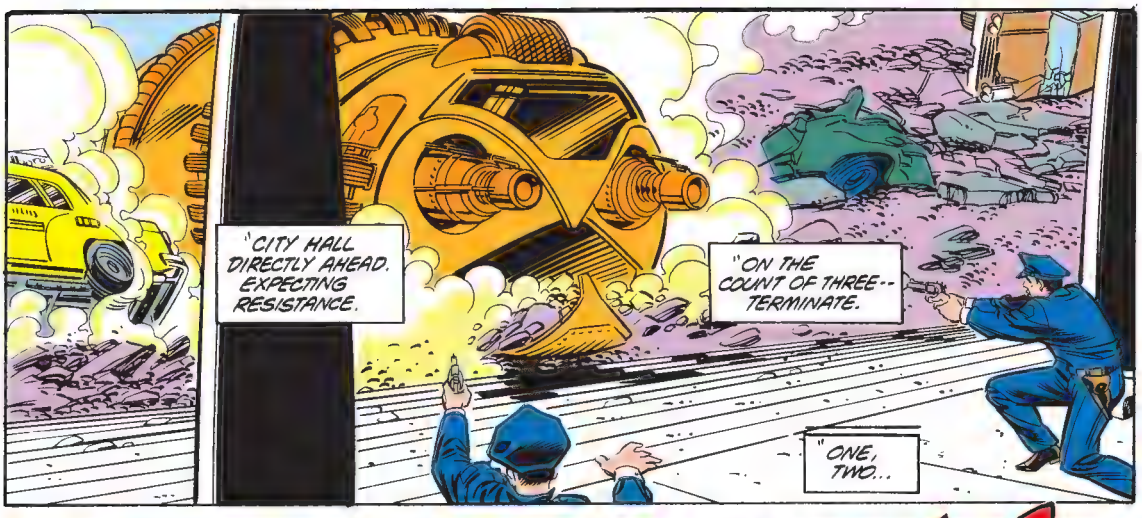

CLARK KENT, LOIS LANE, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE PLANET STAFF--

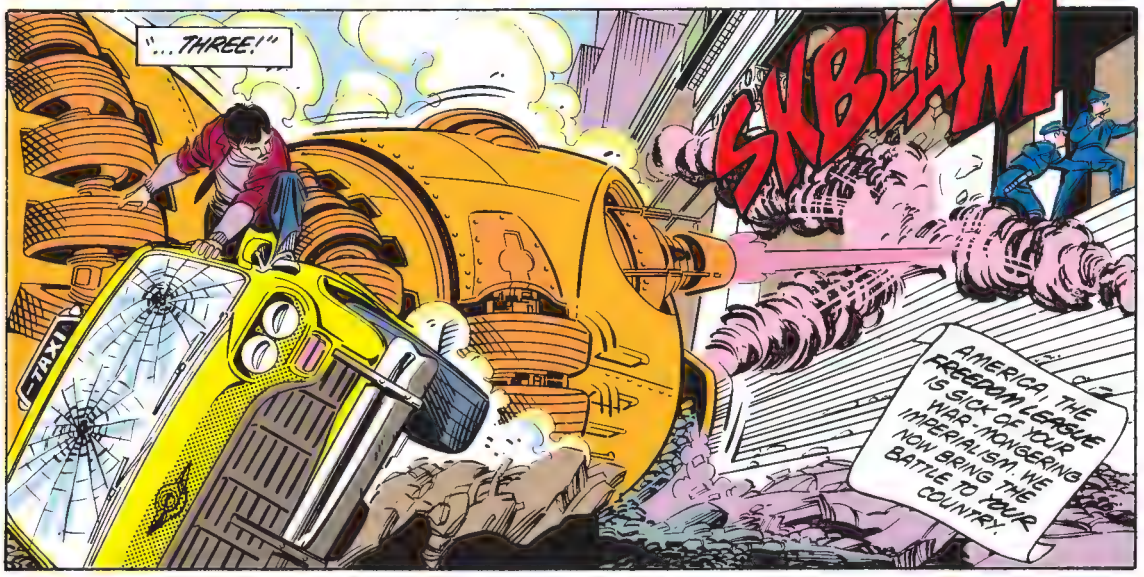
-- CATHERINE GRANT!
CALL ME CAT.
CLARK KENT, HMMM? LOOKS, MUSCLES...
...AND TALENT.
IRRESISTIBLE.
RRING RRING
5

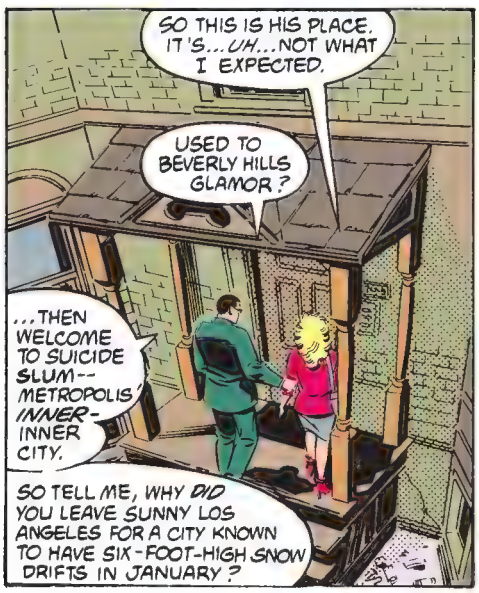

YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
YOU COULD SAY WE'VE TAKEN A TRIP TOGETHER.
CATHERINE GRANT, HMMM? I'VE READ YOUR COLUMN FOR YEARS. THE WAY YOU INTERVIEW THOSE HOLLYWOOD STARS... IT'S WONDERFUL.
YOU REALLY SEEM TO KNOW THEM SO WELL.
SOME OF THEM BETTER THAN OTHERS.
KENT, THIS IS FOR YOU.
I'VE HEARD HOW YOU GET SOME OF THOSE INTERVIEWS.
YOU DON'T HEAR THEM COMPLAINING, DO YOU, MISS LANE?
OR ME, FOR THAT MATTER. MMMM?
SO THAT'S CLARK KENT. HIS LAST NOVEL WAS... SCRUMPTIOUS.
YES, MR. GUNDERSEN. I UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION. I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO CONTACT SUPERMAN FOR YOU.
HEY, CLARK-- SINCE PERRY WANTS US TO WORK TOGETHER ON THIS NEW STORY, WHY DON'T I FILL YOU IN ON IT... OVER LUNCH.
THE COSSAK TEA ROOM ALL RIGHT? MMMM?
HMMM. WATCH THOSE CALORIES, KENT.
LOIS, I HEARD ABOUT YOUR MOTHER. HOW IS SHE?
I'M NOT HERE TO TALK ABOUT MY FAMILY, PERRY.
WHY DID YOU HIRE HER? SHE'S A SCANDAL MONGER.
AND A VERY GOOD ONE AT THAT--WITH A LARGE FOLLOWING.
SHE'S PERFECT FOR THE NEW SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT MAGAZINE.
TRUST MY INSTINCTS, LOIS. AFTER ALL, I HIRED YOU, TOO-- WHEN YOU HAD FEWER CREDENTIALS.
6

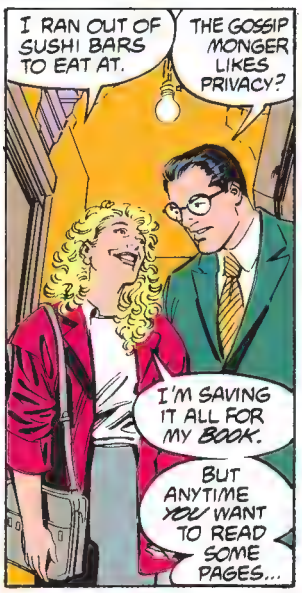

LOIS, I KNOW YOU'RE CLOSED-MOUTHED ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, BUT I'M CONCERNED.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR ACCIDENT?
WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE ABOUT IT?
LIGHTEN YOUR WORK LOAD?
AND GIVE IT TO SOMEONE LIKE CATHY GRANT? NO.
NO WAY.
I DON'T NEED TIME OFF. I'LL BE FINE.
JUST FINE.
"WHAT'S GOING ON, CLARK?"
LOOKS LIKE--
THAT BUILDING COLLAPSED. BUT THEY WEREN'T TEARING IT DOWN WHEN I SAW IT LAST FRIDAY.
MOVE ON... MOVE ON. NO STOPPING.
OFFICER, WE'RE REPORTERS FROM THE DAILY PLANET.
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
YOU'RE THE REPORTER. SEE FOR YOURSELF.
I CAN SEE. WHAT CAUSED IT?
HELL, MISTER, IT WAS A BOMB OF SOME KIND.
A TERRORIST NUT BOMB.
LOOK AT THIS.
I THOUGHT I HEARD SHALLOW, LABORED BREATHING. SOMEONE'S STILL ALIVE.
THE FREEDOM LEAGUE TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTION AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST WAR MONGERS FOR THEIR INVASION!
WHAT INVASION?
7

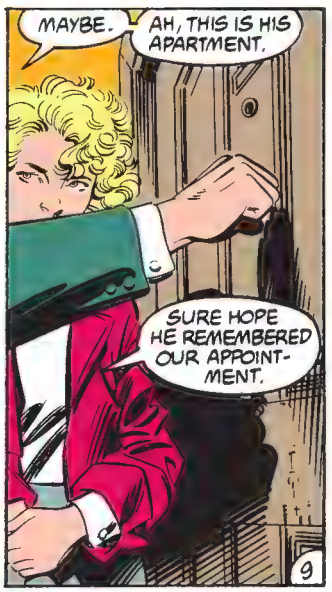

MISTER, I JUST SAW THAT ROCK MOVE. SOMEBODY MUST STILL BE ALIVE IN THERE!
UNDER THAT RUBBLE? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
DANGER
I'M TELLING YOU...
LISTEN TO HIM.
CLARK KENT HAS A THING FOR HUNCHES-- HE'S GOTTEN SOME INCREDIBLE STORIES WORKING FROM THEM.
YOU WON'T REGRET IT. TRUST ME.
C'MON, HANDSOME. LET'S GO. WE STILL HAVE OUR STORY.
I KNOW. ONE MINUTE.
I DON'T LIKE WHAT MY MICRO-SCOPIC VISION IS PICKING UP. THERE ARE GRAPPLER MARKS IN THE STONE.
THE COLLAPSE WASN'T CAUSED BY AN ORDINARY EXPLOSION.
THERE WAS A SERIES OF SMALLER EXPLOSIONS SET ACROSS THE BUILDING'S STRESS LINES. WHOEVER THE FREEDOM LEAGUE IS, THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING.
DOLLAR FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?
HUH? OH...JUST THINKING ABOUT LUNCH. AND YOU.
BEST DOLLAR I EVER SPENT.
"COORDINATES I.O. ARRIVAL TIME: 18 SECONDS.
"UNDER TARGET.
"PREPARE FOR EMERGENCE."
SKRAKOOM
8

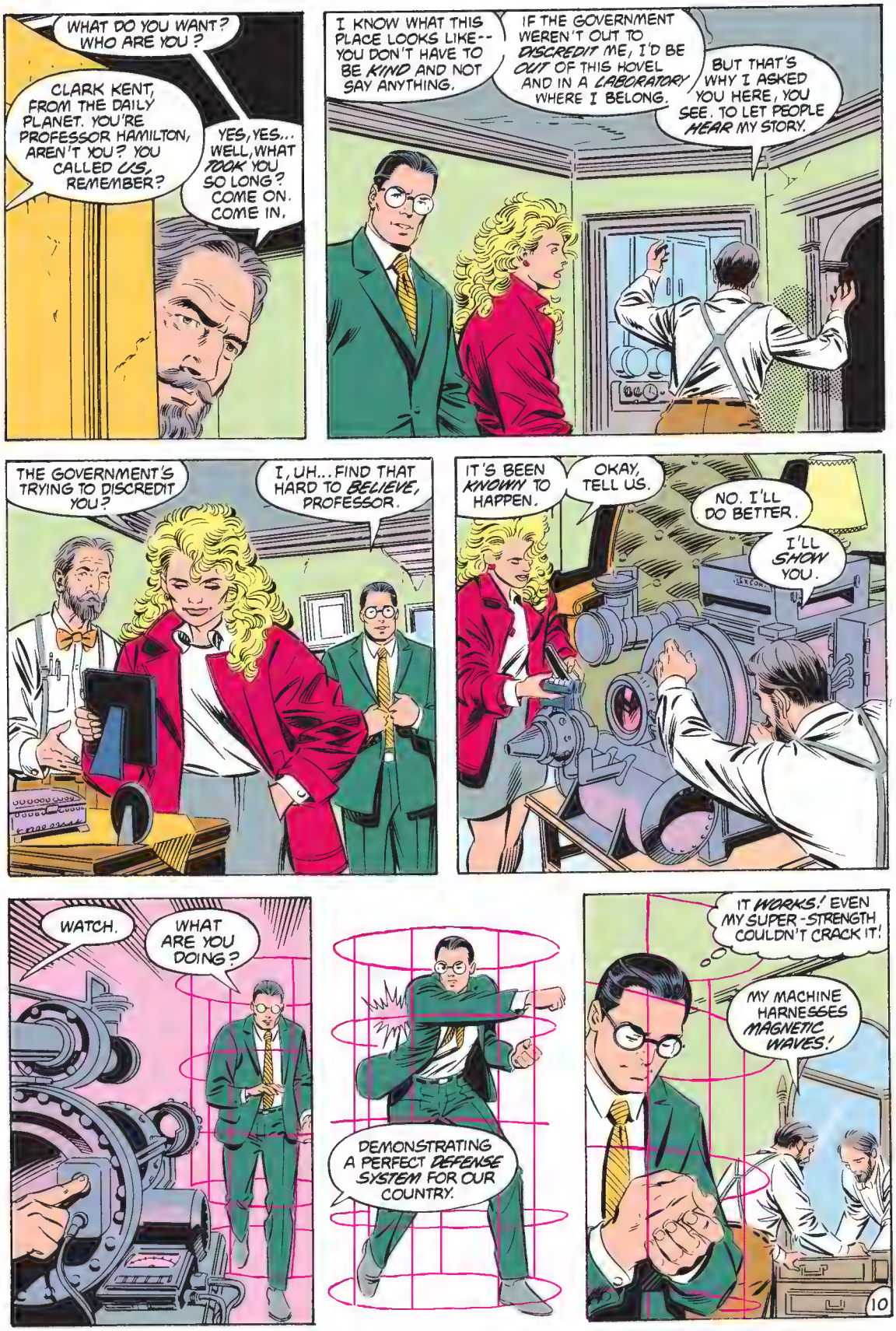

"CITY HALL DIRECTLY AHEAD. EXPECTING RESISTANCE.
"ON THE COUNT OF THREE-- TERMINATE.
"ONE, TWO..

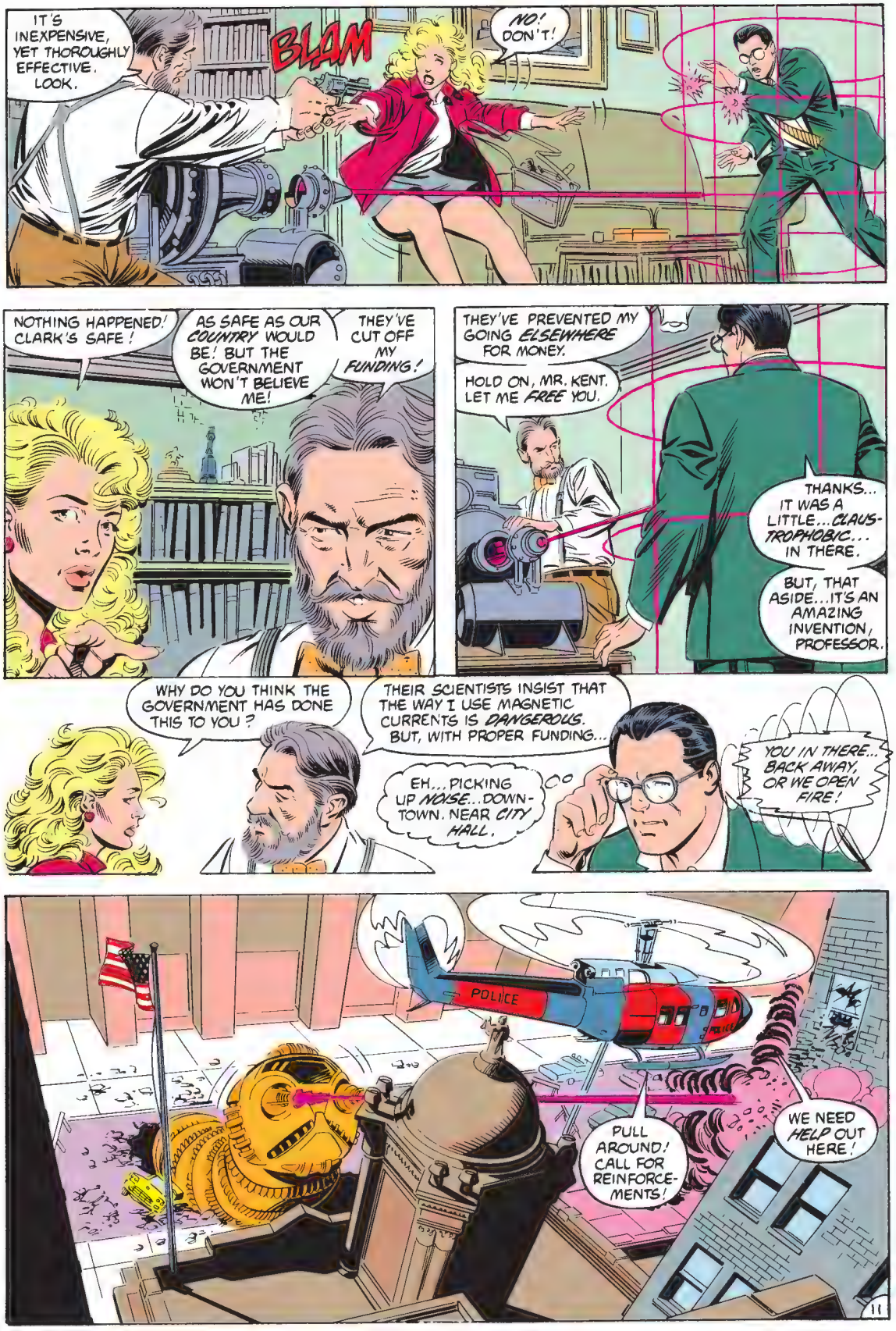

"...THREE!"
SKBLAM
TAXI
AMERICA, THE FREEDOM LEAGUE IS SICK OF YOUR WAR-MONGERING IMPERIALISM. WE NOW BRING THE BATTLE TO YOUR COUNTRY.


SO THIS IS HIS PLACE. IT'S...UH...NOT WHAT I EXPECTED.
USED TO BEVERLY HILLS GLAMOR?
...THEN WELCOME TO SUICIDE SLUM-- METROPOLIS' INNER-INNER CITY.
SO TELL ME, WHY DID YOU LEAVE SUNNY LOS ANGELES FOR A CITY KNOWN TO HAVE SIX-FOOT-HIGH SNOW DRIFTS IN JANUARY?

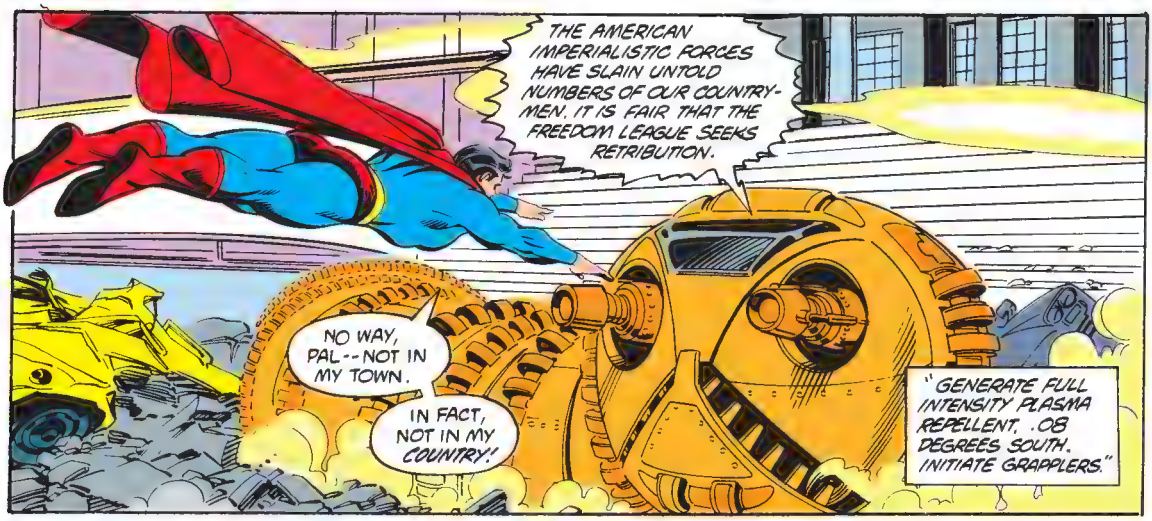

I RAN OUT OF SUSHI BARS TO EAT AT.
THE GOSSIP MONGER LIKES PRIVACY?
I'M SAVING IT ALL FOR MY BOOK.
BUT ANYTIME YOU WANT TO READ SOME PAGES...

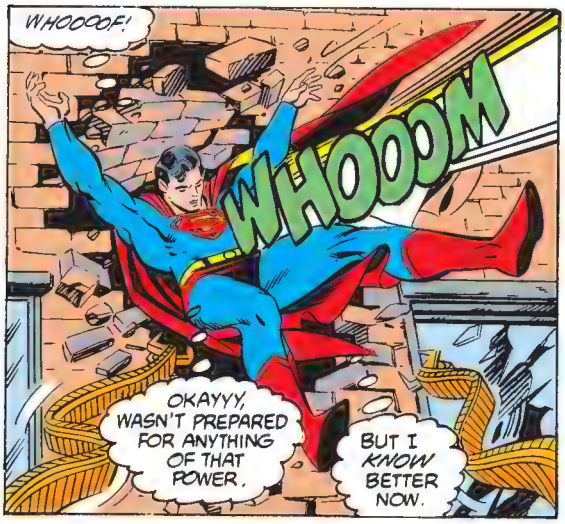

MAYBE.
AH, THIS IS HIS APARTMENT.
SURE HOPE HE REMEMBERED OUR APPOINTMENT.
9

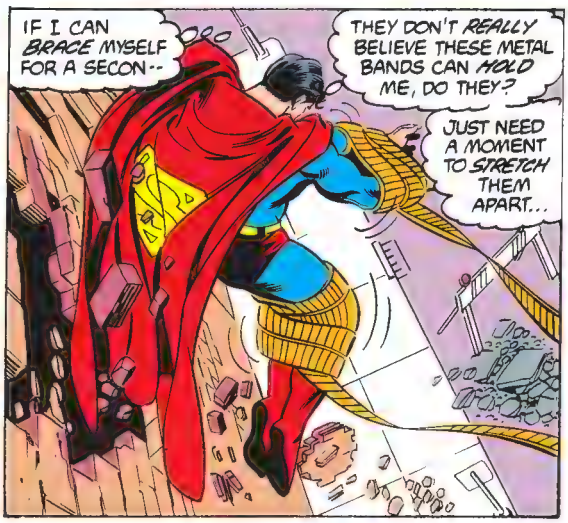

WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHO ARE YOU?
CLARK KENT, FROM THE DAILY PLANET. YOU'RE PROFESSOR HAMILTON, AREN'T YOU? YOU CALLED US, REMEMBER?
YES, YES... WELL, WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? COME ON. COME IN.
I KNOW WHAT THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE KIND AND NOT SAY ANYTHING.
IF THE GOVERNMENT WEREN'T OUT TO DISCREDIT ME, I'D BE OUT OF THIS HOVEL AND IN A LABORATORY WHERE I BELONG.
BUT THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU HERE, YOU SEE. TO LET PEOPLE HEAR MY STORY.
THE GOVERNMENT'S TRYING TO DISCREDIT YOU?
I, UH... FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE, PROFESSOR.
IT'S BEEN KNOWN TO HAPPEN.
OKAY, TELL US.
NO. I'LL DO BETTER.
I'LL SHOW YOU.
WATCH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DEMONSTRATING A PERFECT DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR OUR COUNTRY.
IT WORKS! EVEN MY SUPER-STRENGTH COULDN'T CRACK IT!
MY MACHINE HARNESSES MAGNETIC WAVES!
10

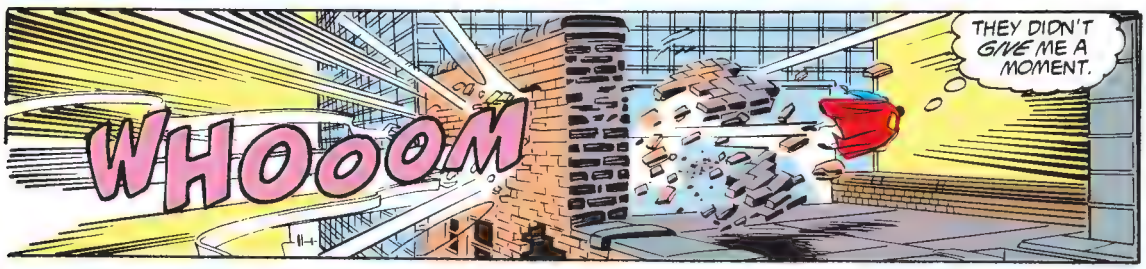

IT'S INEXPENSIVE, YET THOROUGHLY EFFECTIVE. LOOK.
BLAM
NO! DON'T!
NOTHING HAPPENED! CLARK'S SAFE!
AS SAFE AS OUR COUNTRY WOULD BE! BUT THE GOVERNMENT WON'T BELIEVE ME!
THEY'VE CUT OFF MY FUNDING!
THEY'VE PREVENTED MY GOING ELSEWHERE FOR MONEY.
HOLD ON, MR. KENT. LET ME FREE YOU.
THANKS... IT WAS A LITTLE...CLAUSTROPHOBIC... IN THERE.
BUT, THAT ASIDE...IT'S AN AMAZING INVENTION, PROFESSOR.
WHY DO YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE THIS TO YOU?
THEIR SCIENTISTS INSIST THAT THE WAY I USE MAGNETIC CURRENTS IS DANGEROUS. BUT, WITH PROPER FUNDING...
EH... PICKING UP NOISE...DOWNTOWN. NEAR CITY HALL.
YOU IN THERE... BACK AWAY, OR WE OPEN FIRE!
POLICE
PULL AROUND! CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS!
WE NEED HELP OUT HERE!
11

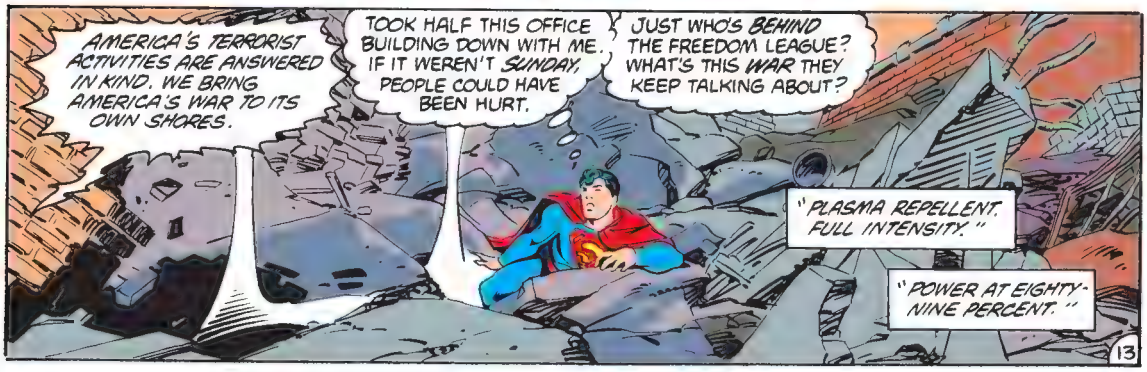
CLARK, I THINK WE HAVE A STORY FOR--
CLARK?
CLARK?
SOME KIND OF ROBOT IS ATTACKING CITY HALL! I'M PICKING UP SEVERAL HEART-BEATS FROM INSIDE, SO IT'S MANUALLY CONTROLLED. LEAD SHIELDING PREVENTS ME FROM TELLING WHO'S INSIDE.
IF IT WERE CONTROLLED REMOTELY, I'D HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT DESTROYING IT. BUT I CAN'T DO THAT NOW.
WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT DESTROYED THAT OFFICE BUILDING WE SAW? IT WOULD MAKE SENSE.
WELL, I CAN STOP SPECULATING. I'LL HAVE MY ANSWERS ONCE I OPEN UP THAT OVERSIZED SARDINE CAN!
12


THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTIC FORCES HAVE SLAIN UNTOLD NUMBERS OF OUR COUNTRYMEN. IT IS FAIR THAT THE FREEDOM LEAGUE SEEKS RETRIBUTION.
NO WAY, PAL--NOT IN MY TOWN.
IN FACT, NOT IN MY COUNTRY!
"GENERATE FULL INTENSITY PLASMA REPELLENT. .08 DEGREES SOUTH. INITIATE GRAPPLERS."

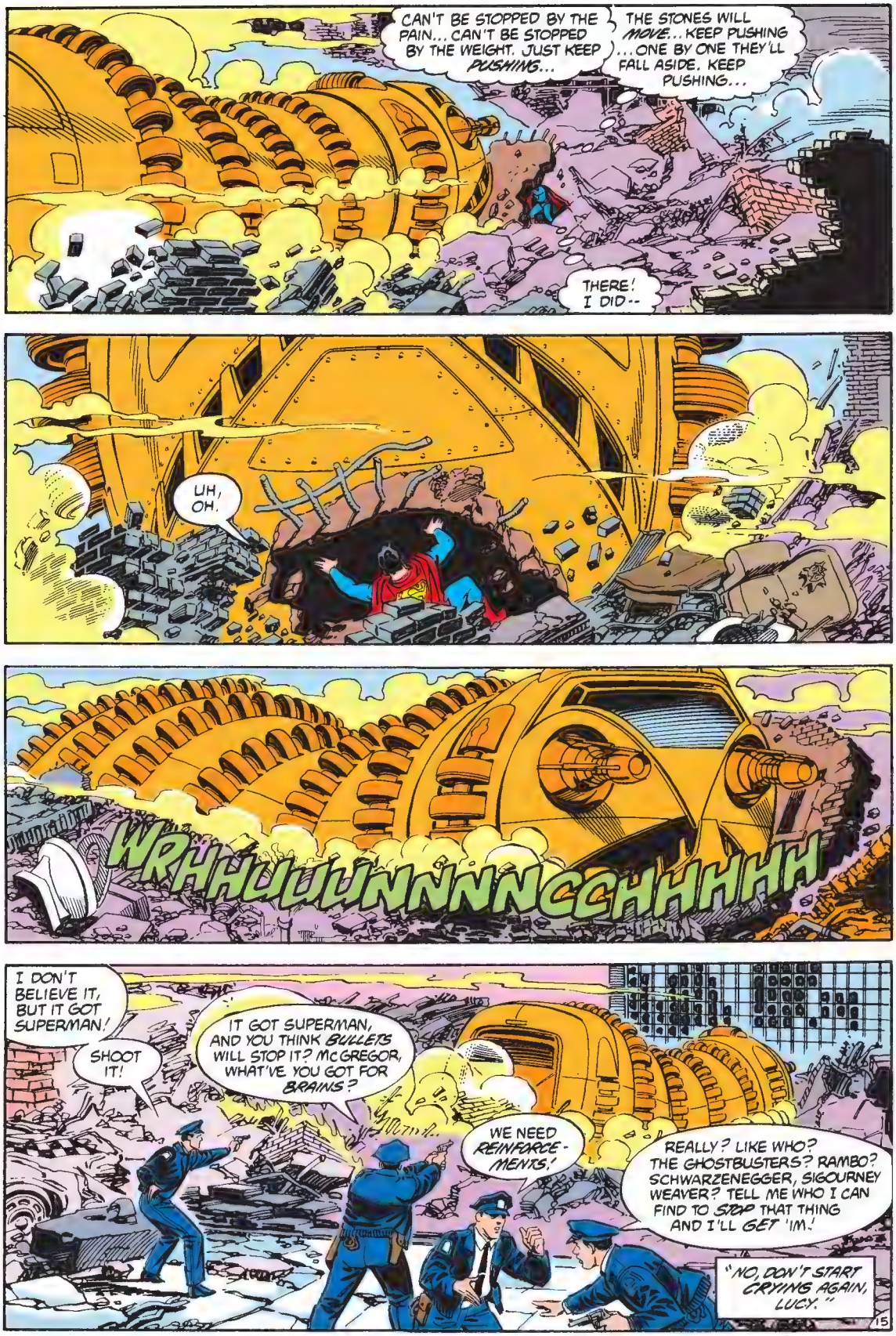

WHOOOOF!
WHOOOOM
OKAYYY, WASN'T PREPARED FOR ANYTHING OF THAT POWER.
BUT I KNOW BETTER NOW.


IF I CAN BRACE MYSELF FOR A SECON--
THEY DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THESE METAL BANDS CAN HOLD ME, DO THEY?
JUST NEED A MOMENT TO STRETCH THEM APART...

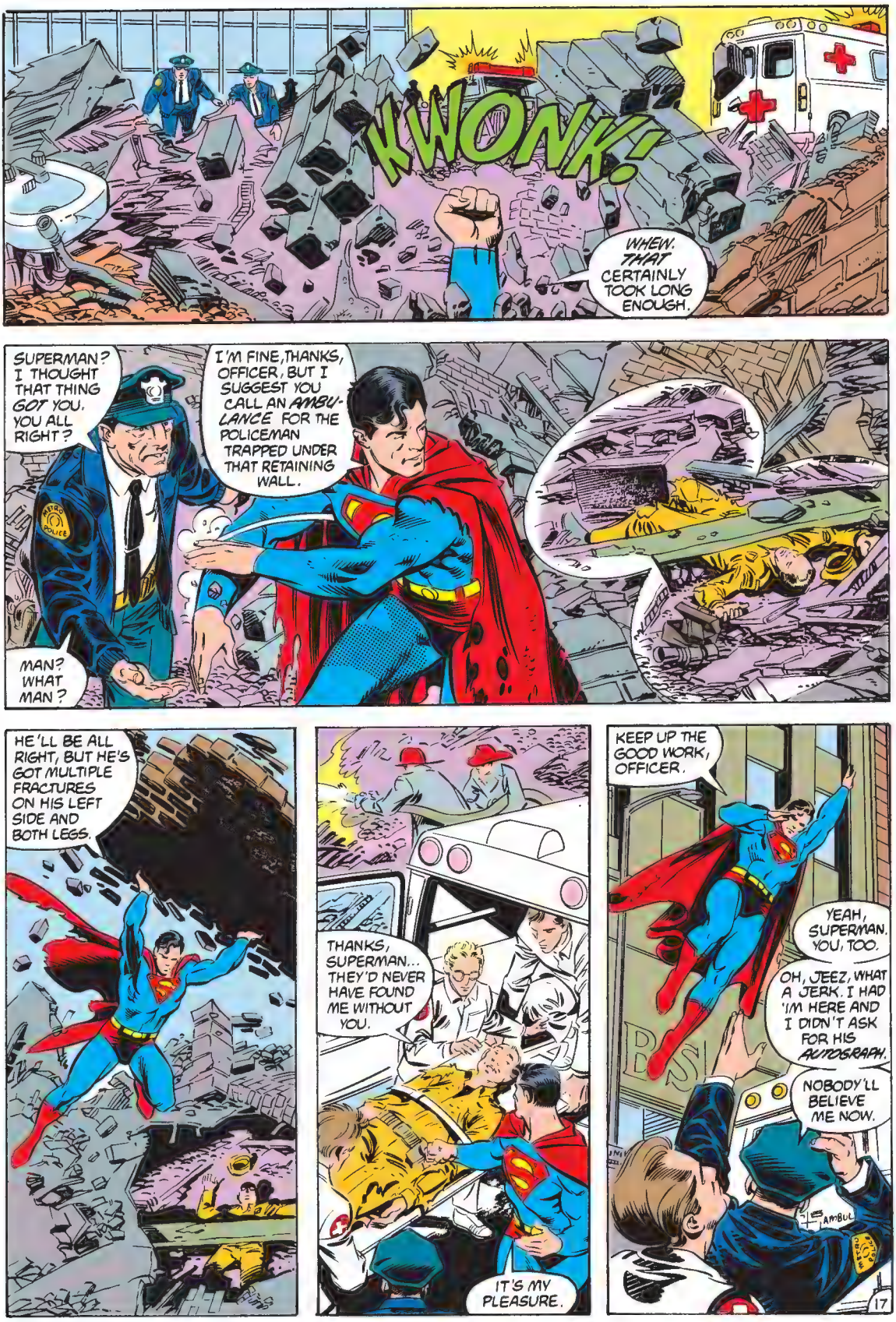

WHOOOOM
THEY DIDN'T GIVE ME A MOMENT.

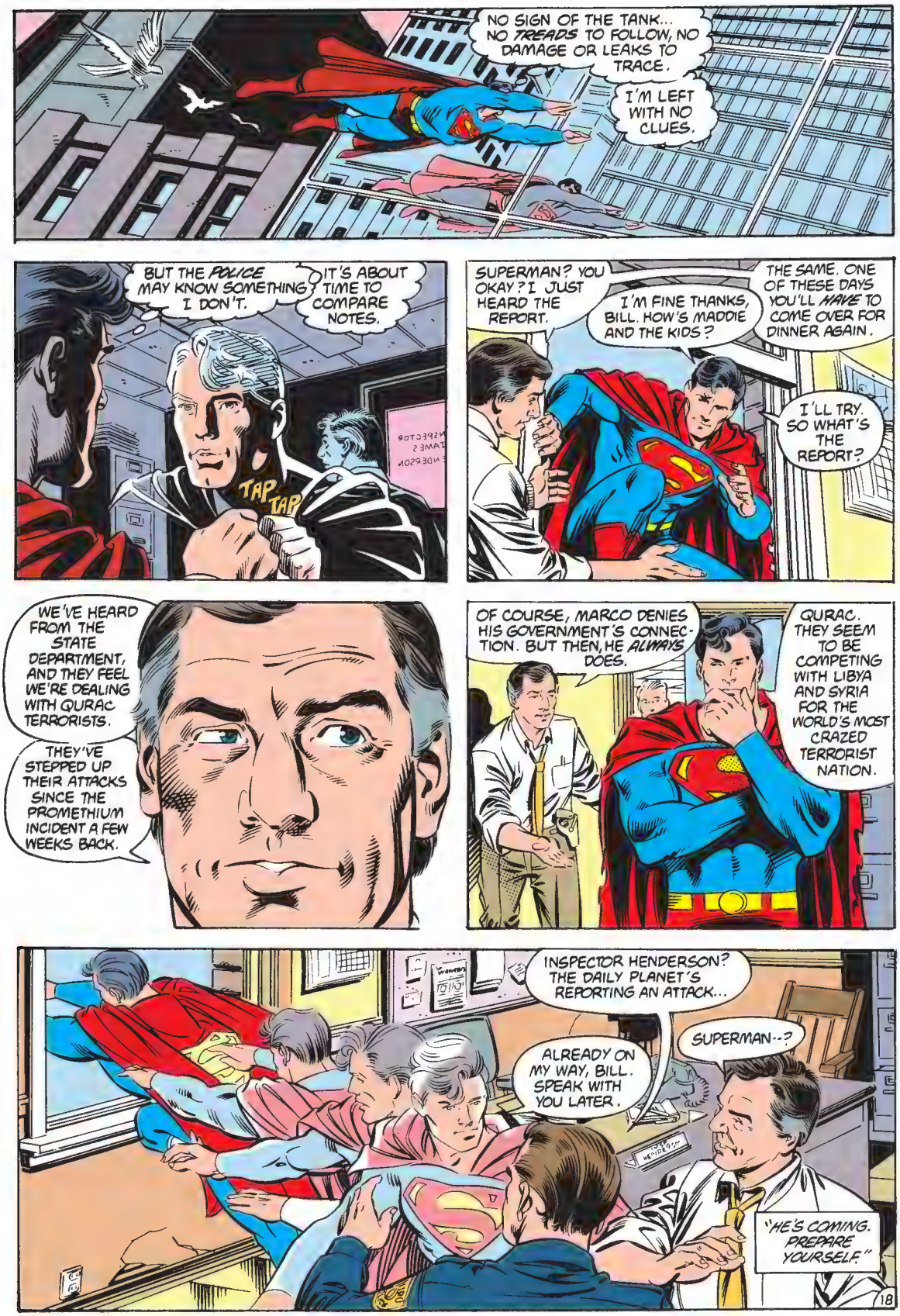

AMERICA'S TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ARE ANSWERED IN KIND. WE BRING AMERICA'S WAR TO ITS OWN SHORES.
TOOK HALF THIS OFFICE BUILDING DOWN WITH ME. IF IT WEREN'T SUNDAY, PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEEN HURT.
JUST WHO'S BEHIND THE FREEDOM LEAGUE? WHAT'S THIS WAR THEY KEEP TALKING ABOUT?
"PLASMA REPELLENT. FULL INTENSITY."
"POWER AT EIGHTY-NINE PERCENT."
13

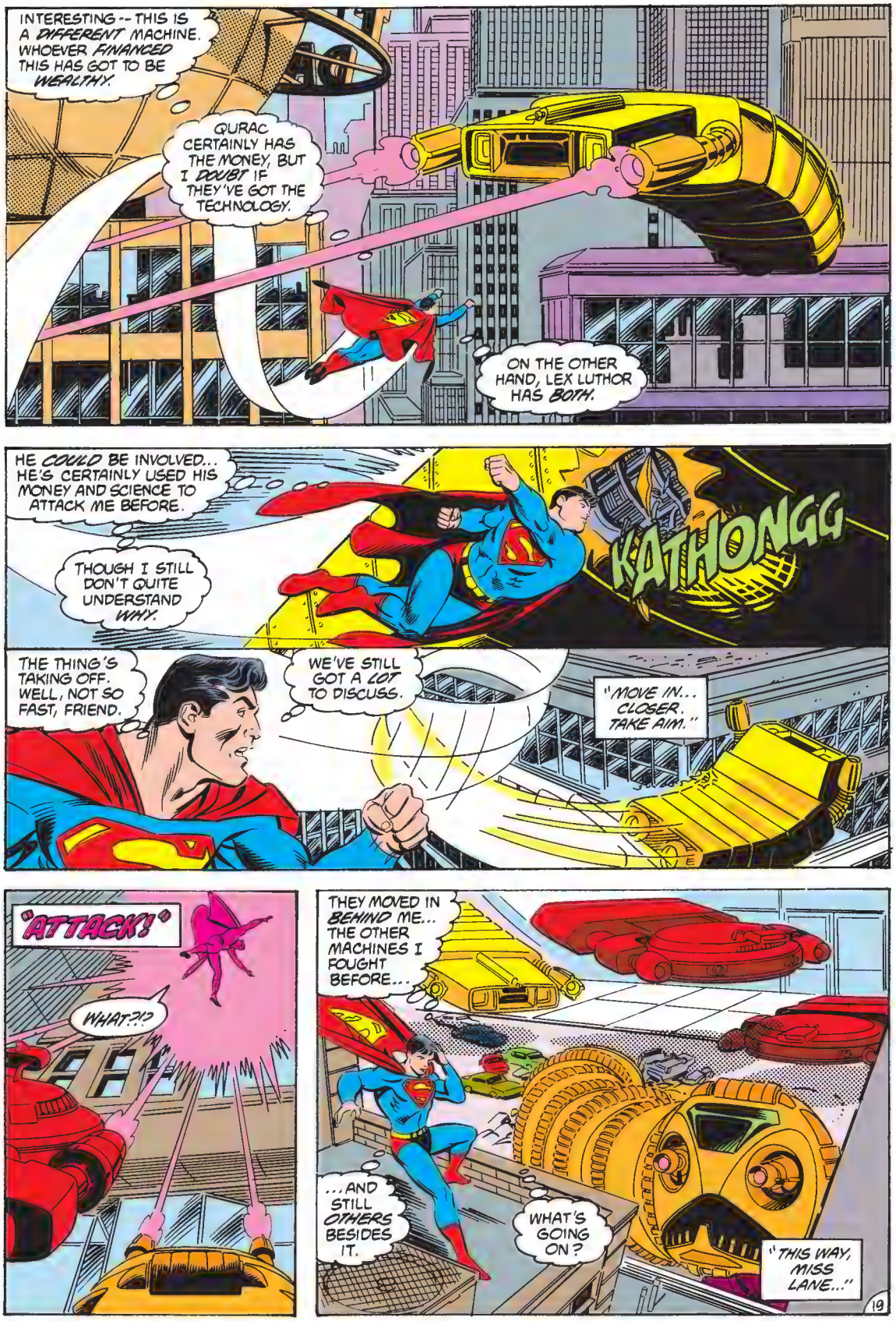
"ACKNOWLEDGED. FIRE!"
WHOOOOM
"POWER AT SEVENTY-THREE PERCENT. DROPPING."
I'M AWARE OF THAT, FIVE. REBUILD POWER WITH NUMBER ELEVEN AND THIRTEEN.
INITIATING. POWER LEVEL INCREASING TO EIGHTY-THREE... NINETY-TWO... COMPLETE.
I'M SORRY ABOUT ELEVEN. I KNOW WHAT HE MEANT TO YOU.
HE UNDERSTOOD THE RISKS. SO DO I.
I'M NEXT, AREN'T I?
UH HUH.
THANK YOU.
"THIS MUST WEIGH MORE THAN EIGHTY TONS."
HEAVY... THE TWO ATTACKS KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF ME. CRUSHING DOWN...
OH, NO... UPPER LEVELS FALLING ON TOP... JUST WHAT I NEEDED.
ALL RIGHT... FORGET THE PAIN. FORGET THE WEIGHT. JUST BREATHE IN SLOWLY.
DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
FORGET THE PAIN. THINK ABOUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
I CAN MOVE THIS... ONE INCH AT A TIME IF NEED BE, BUT I CAN LIFT IT...
14

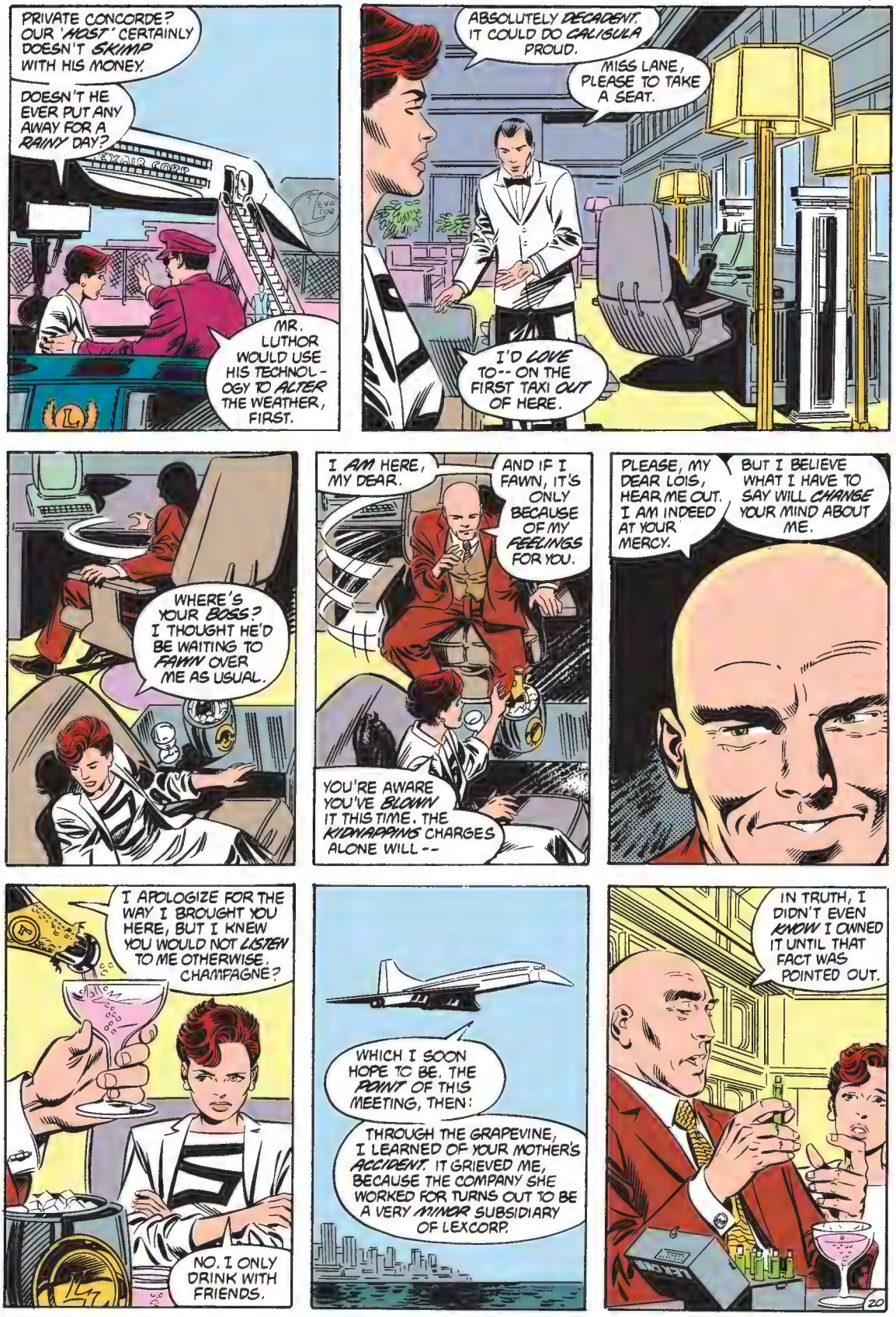

CAN'T BE STOPPED BY THE PAIN... CAN'T BE STOPPED BY THE WEIGHT. JUST KEEP PUSHING...
THE STONES WILL MOVE... KEEP PUSHING ...ONE BY ONE THEY'LL FALL ASIDE. KEEP PUSHING...
THERE! I DID--
UH, OH.
WRHHUUUNNNNCCHHHHHH
I DON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT IT GOT SUPERMAN!
SHOOT IT!
IT GOT SUPERMAN, AND YOU THINK BULLETS WILL STOP IT? McGREGOR, WHAT'VE YOU GOT FOR BRAINS?
WE NEED REINFORCE-MENTS.
REALLY? LIKE WHO? THE GHOSTBUSTERS? RAMBO? SCHWARZENEGGER, SIGOURNEY WEAVER? TELL ME WHO I CAN FIND TO STOP THAT THING AND I'LL GET 'IM.
"NO, DON'T START CRYING AGAIN, LUCY."
15

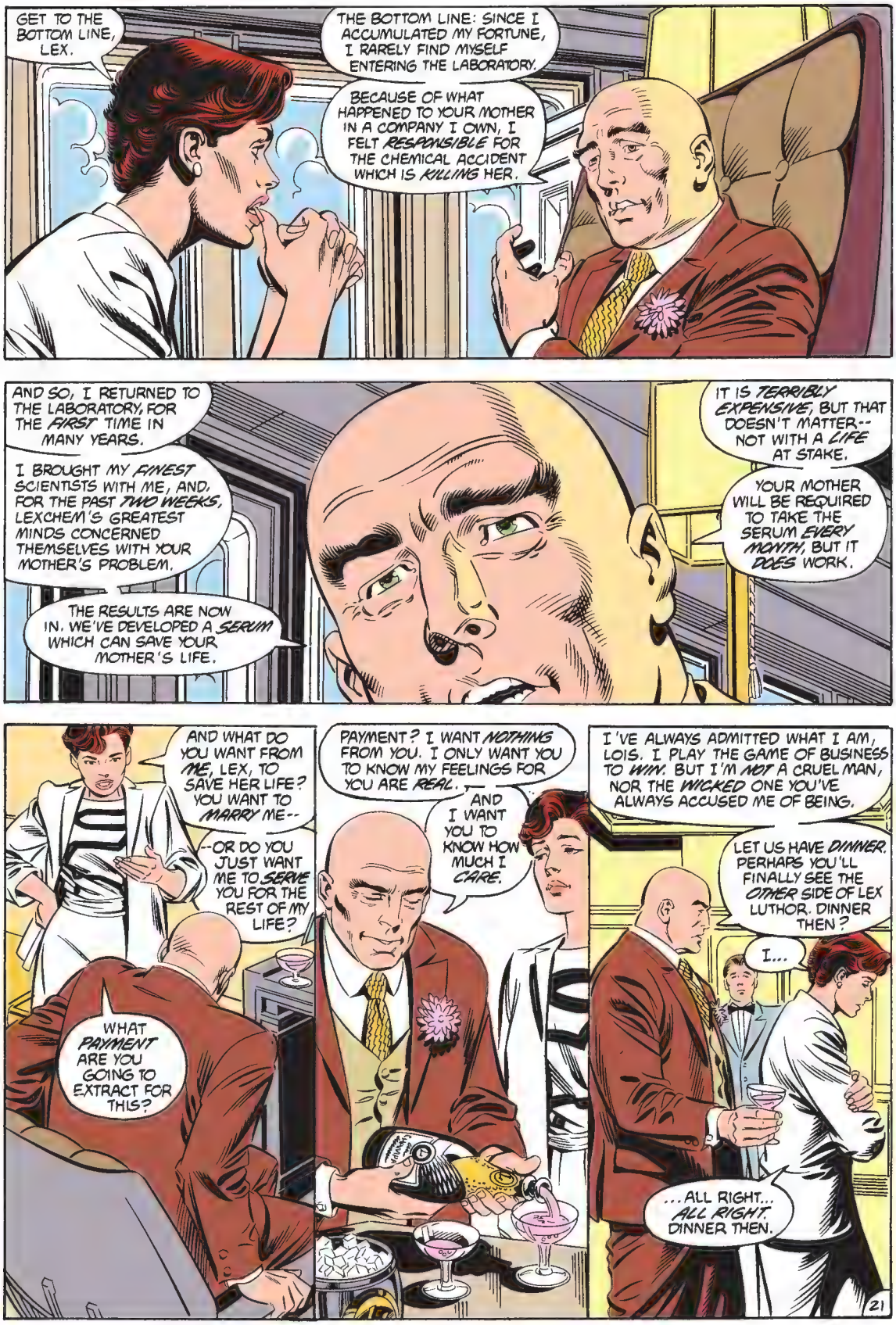
I KNOW SHE'S GETTING WORSE, HONEY. I'M SURE THE DOCTORS ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN.
JUST DON'T FALL APART ON ME NOW. WE NEED YOU, LUCY.
OH, HI, MISS LANE... SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BUSY. THE CHIEF SAYS--
LUCY, I'VE GOT WORK TO TAKE CARE OF. YEAH, OF COURSE I'LL BE AT THE HOSPITAL TONIGHT-- RIGHT AFTER WORK.
PULITZER PRIZE
ARE YOU OKAY, MISS LANE?
MISS LANE?
THE CHIEF WANTED TO SEE YOU, MISS LANE. RIGHT AWAY. PRONTO.
MISS LANE? JEEPERS!
LUCY'LL NEVER MAKE IT THROUGH ALL THIS. IF MOM DIES, SHE'LL COMPLETELY FALL APART.
ALTHOUGH SHE REGAINED HER SIGHT, SHE'S NEVER FULLY RECOVERED FROM THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SHOCK OF BEING SO HELPLESS.
MISS LANE? PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
DAILY PLANET
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MY EMPLOYER WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
EMPLOY-- YOU MEAN YOUR CRIME BOSS-- LEX LUTHOR.
HANDS OFF, MISTER, IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THEM.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THIS IN ADVANCE, MISS LANE, BUT MR. LUTHOR INSISTED HE HAD TO SEE YOU.
WHA--!?
LET ME OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW.
LET ME OUT!
LUTHOR... YOU MISERABLE, OVER-BLOATED--
N...NO. NO SHOUTING. NO THREATS. NOT NOW, AT LEAST. I'LL WAIT UNTIL I SEE YOU IN PERSON, LEX.
THIS TIME I'VE GOT YOU WHERE I WANT YOU.
ASSAULT AND BATTERY. KIDNAPPING. TRY BEATING THOSE CHARGES.
"MCGREGOR, YOU SEE SOMETHING MOVING IN THAT RUBBLE?"
16

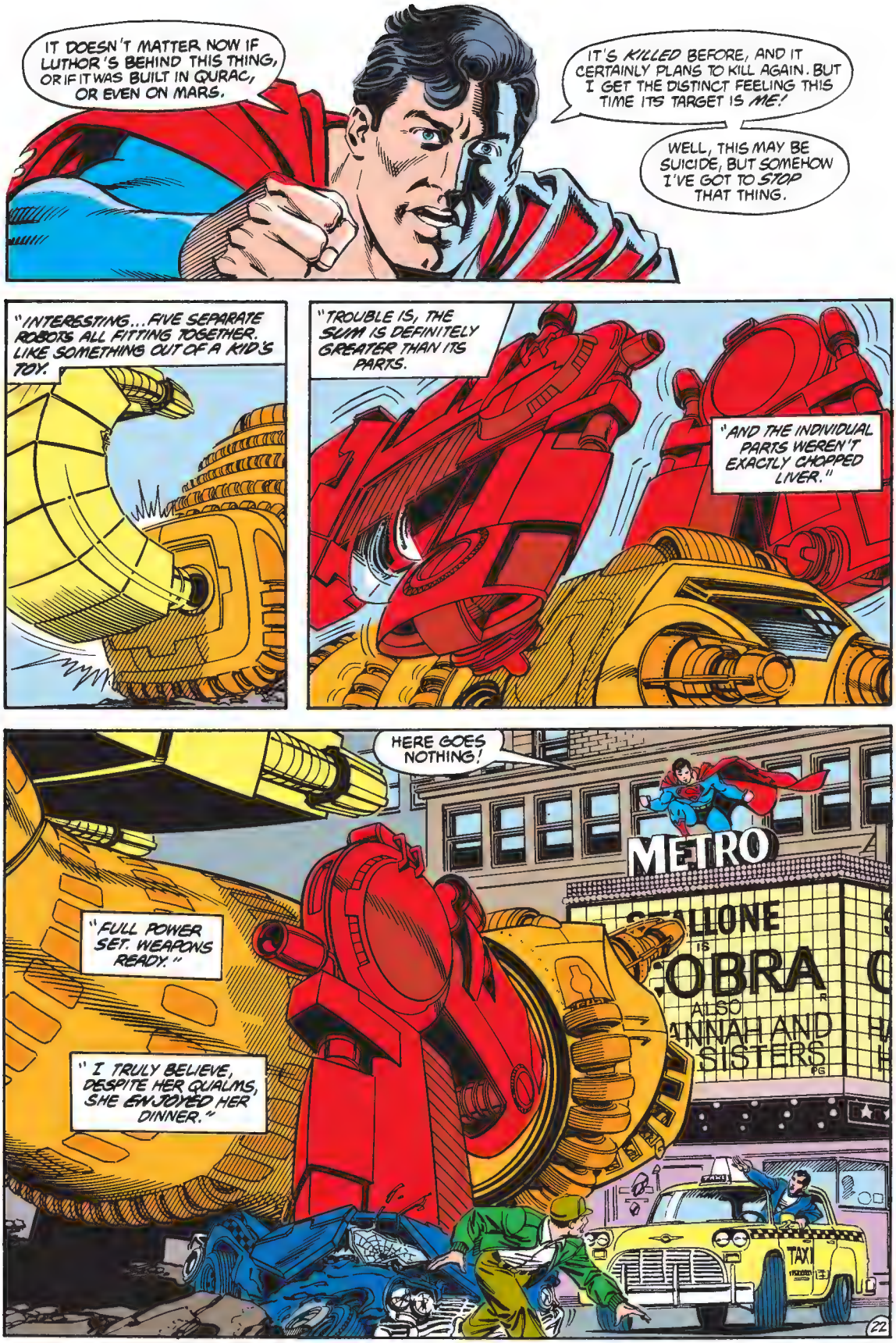

KWONK!
WHEW. THAT CERTAINLY TOOK LONG ENOUGH.
SUPERMAN? I THOUGHT THAT THING GOT YOU. YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE, THANKS, OFFICER, BUT I SUGGEST YOU CALL AN AMBULANCE FOR THE POLICEMAN TRAPPED UNDER THAT RETAINING WALL.
METROPOLIS POLICE
MAN? WHAT MAN?
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, BUT HE'S GOT MULTIPLE FRACTURES ON HIS LEFT SIDE AND BOTH LEGS.
THANKS, SUPERMAN... THEY'D NEVER HAVE FOUND ME WITHOUT YOU.
IT'S MY PLEASURE.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, OFFICER.
YEAH, SUPERMAN. YOU, TOO.
OH, JEEZ, WHAT A JERK. I HAD 'IM HERE AND I DIDN'T ASK FOR HIS AUTOGRAPH.
NOBODY'LL BELIEVE ME NOW.
AMBUL
17

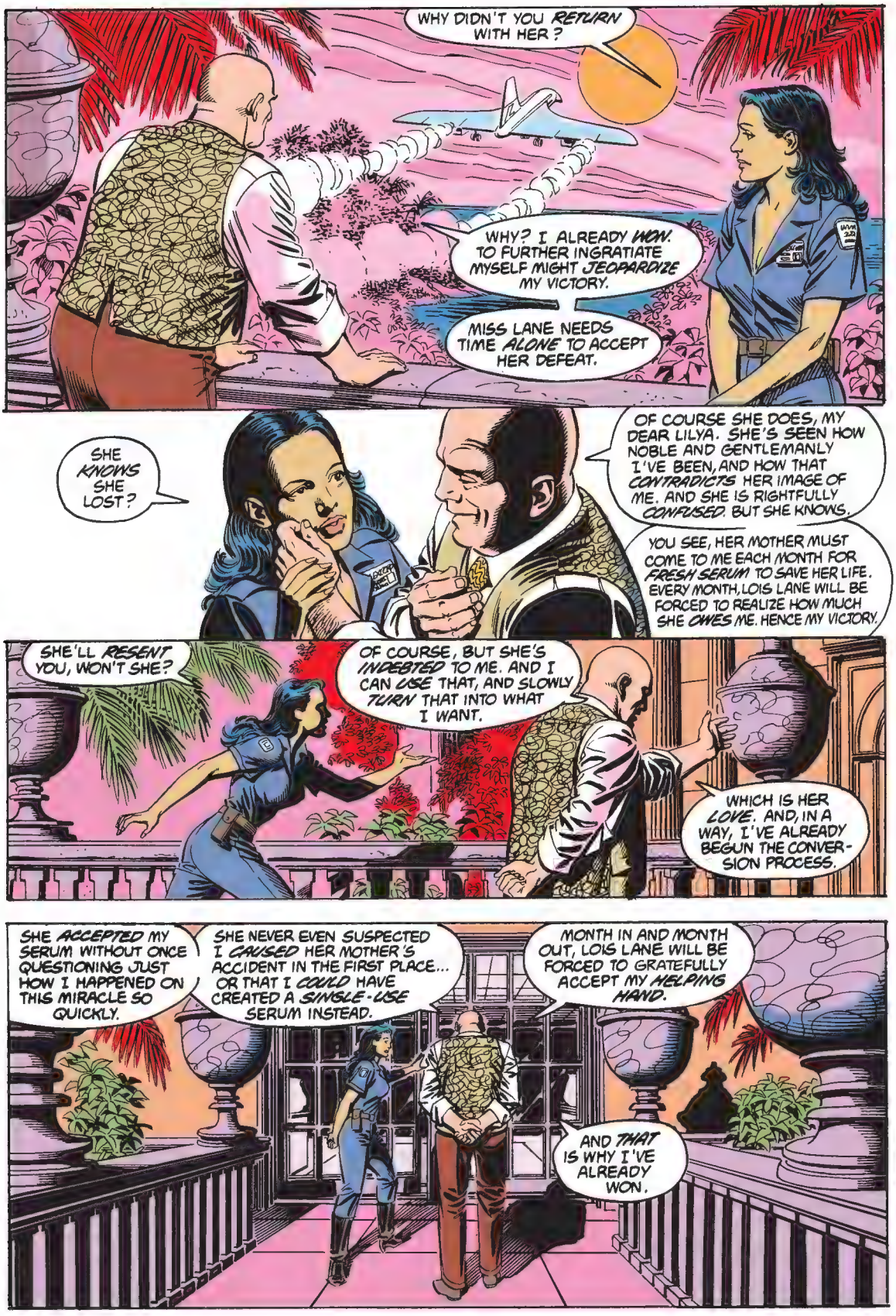

NO SIGN OF THE TANK... NO TREADS TO FOLLOW, NO DAMAGE OR LEAKS TO TRACE.
I'M LEFT WITH NO CLUES.
BUT THE POLICE MAY KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T.
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO COMPARE NOTES.
TAP TAP
SUPERMAN? YOU OKAY? I JUST HEARD THE REPORT.
I'M FINE THANKS, BILL. HOW'S MADDIE AND THE KIDS?
THE SAME. ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU'LL HAVE TO COME OVER FOR DINNER AGAIN.
I'LL TRY. SO WHAT'S THE REPORT?
WE'VE HEARD FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THEY FEEL WE'RE DEALING WITH QURAC TERRORISTS.
THEY'VE STEPPED UP THEIR ATTACKS SINCE THE PROMETHIUM INCIDENT A FEW WEEKS BACK.
OF COURSE, MARCO DENIES HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONNECTION. BUT THEN, HE ALWAYS DOES.
QURAC. THEY SEEM TO BE COMPETING WITH LIBYA AND SYRIA FOR THE WORLD'S MOST CRAZED TERRORIST NATION.
INSPECTOR HENDERSON? THE DAILY PLANET'S REPORTING AN ATTACK...
ALREADY ON MY WAY, BILL. SPEAK WITH YOU LATER.
SUPERMAN--?
"HE'S COMING. PREPARE YOURSELF."
18

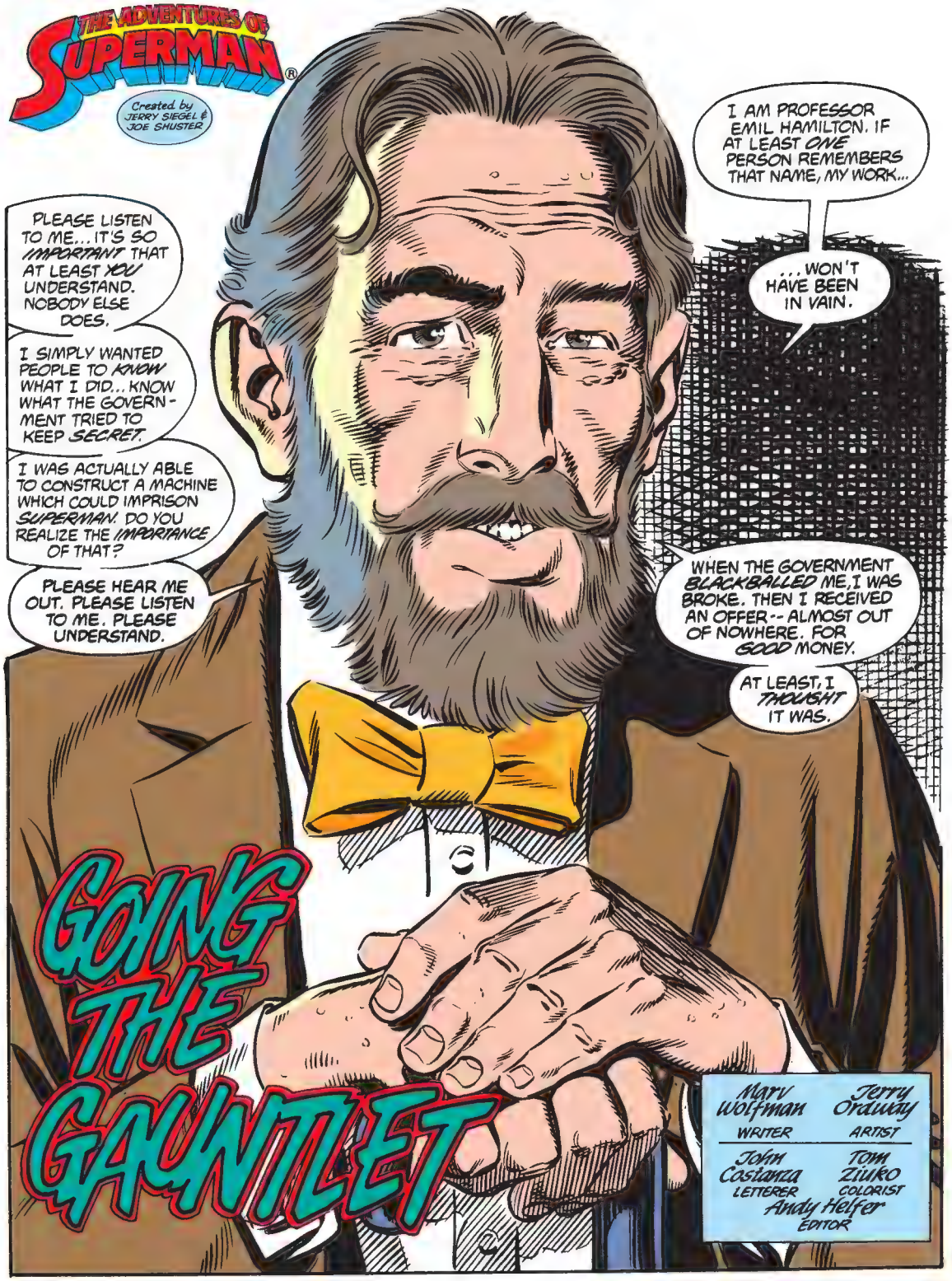

INTERESTING -- THIS IS A DIFFERENT MACHINE. WHOEVER FINANCED THIS HAS GOT TO BE WEALTHY.
QURAC CERTAINLY HAS THE MONEY, BUT I DOUBT IF THEY'VE GOT THE TECHNOLOGY.
ON THE OTHER HAND, LEX LUTHOR HAS BOTH.
HE COULD BE INVOLVED... HE'S CERTAINLY USED HIS MONEY AND SCIENCE TO ATTACK ME BEFORE.
THOUGH I STILL DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHY.
KATHONGG
THE THING'S TAKING OFF. WELL, NOT SO FAST, FRIEND.
WE'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO DISCUSS.
"MOVE IN... CLOSER. TAKE AIM."
"ATTACK!"
WHAT?!?
THEY MOVED IN BEHIND ME... THE OTHER MACHINES I FOUGHT BEFORE...
...AND STILL OTHERS BESIDES IT.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
"THIS WAY, MISS LANE..."
19

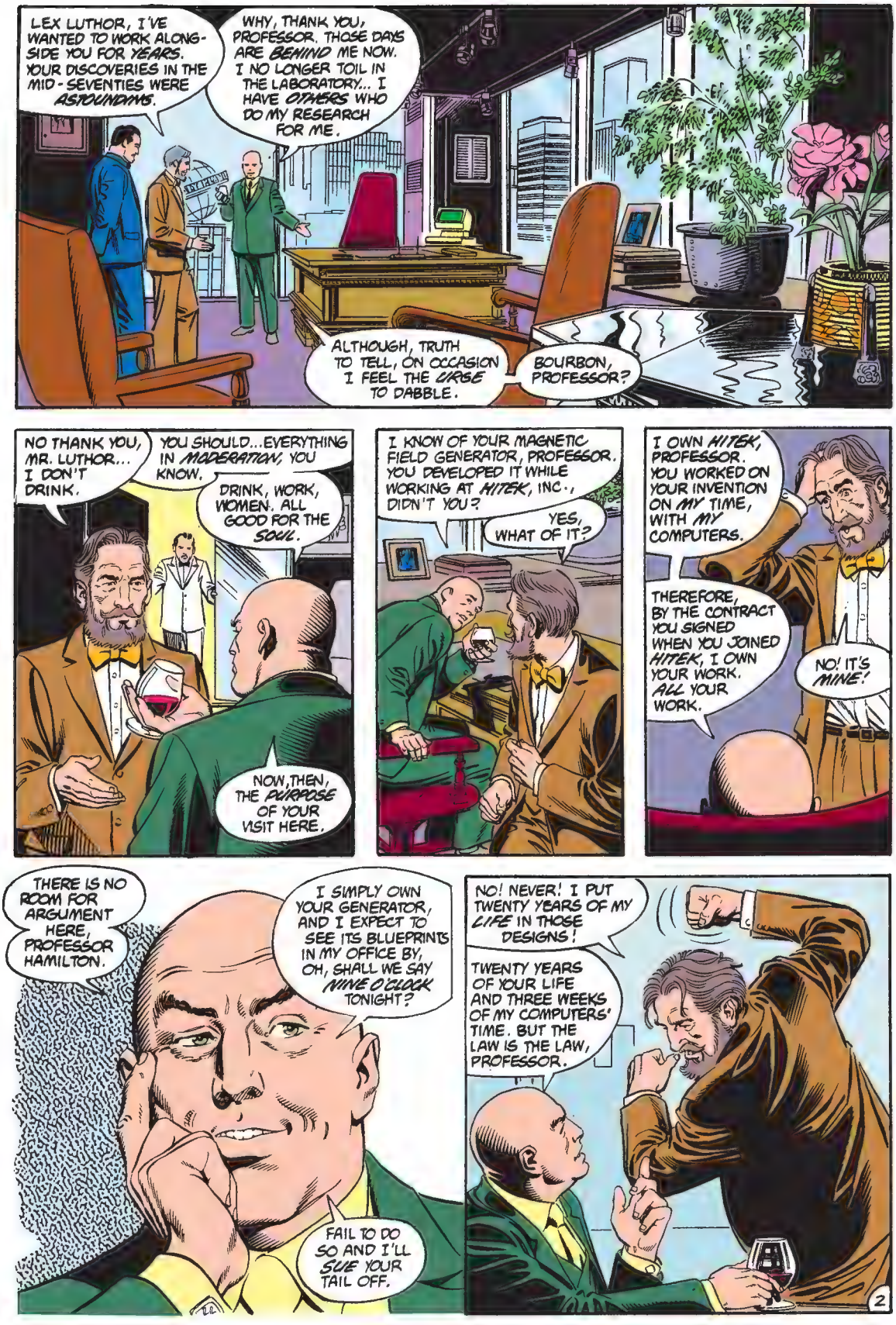

PRIVATE CONCORDE? OUR 'HOST' CERTAINLY DOESN'T SKIMP WITH HIS MONEY.
DOESN'T HE EVER PUT ANY AWAY FOR A RAINY DAY?
MR. LUTHOR WOULD USE HIS TECHNOLOGY TO ALTER THE WEATHER, FIRST.
ABSOLUTELY DECADENT. IT COULD DO CALIGULA PROUD.
MISS LANE, PLEASE TO TAKE A SEAT.
I'D LOVE TO-- ON THE FIRST TAXI OUT OF HERE.
WHERE'S YOUR BOSS? I THOUGHT HE'D BE WAITING TO FAWN OVER ME AS USUAL.
I AM HERE, MY DEAR.
AND IF I FAWN, IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF MY FEELINGS FOR YOU.
YOU'RE AWARE YOU'VE BLOWN IT THIS TIME. THE KIDNAPPING CHARGES ALONE WILL --
PLEASE, MY DEAR LOIS, HEAR ME OUT. I AM INDEED AT YOUR MERCY.
BUT I BELIEVE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT ME.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAY I BROUGHT YOU HERE, BUT I KNEW YOU WOULD NOT LISTEN TO ME OTHERWISE. CHAMPAGNE?
NO. I ONLY DRINK WITH FRIENDS.
WHICH I SOON HOPE TO BE. THE POINT OF THIS MEETING, THEN:
THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE, I LEARNED OF YOUR MOTHER'S ACCIDENT. IT GRIEVED ME, BECAUSE THE COMPANY SHE WORKED FOR TURNS OUT TO BE A VERY MINOR SUBSIDIARY OF LEXCORP.
IN TRUTH, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I OWNED IT UNTIL THAT FACT WAS POINTED OUT.
20

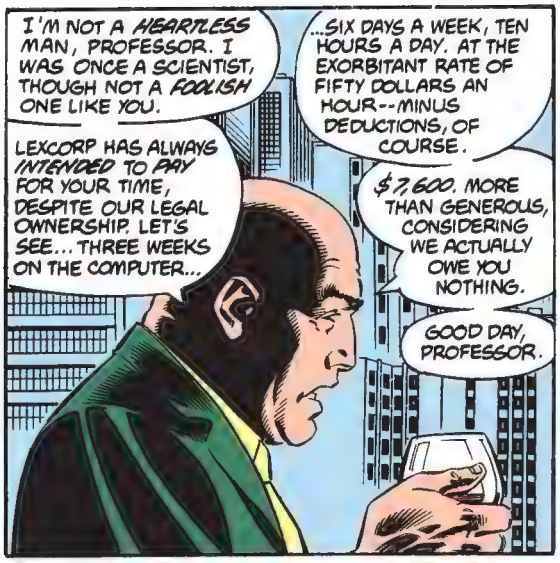

GET TO THE BOTTOM LINE, LEX.
THE BOTTOM LINE: SINCE I ACCUMULATED MY FORTUNE, I RARELY FIND MYSELF ENTERING THE LABORATORY.
BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR MOTHER IN A COMPANY I OWN, I FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHEMICAL ACCIDENT WHICH IS KILLING HER.
AND SO, I RETURNED TO THE LABORATORY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS.
I BROUGHT MY FINEST SCIENTISTS WITH ME, AND, FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS, LEXCHEM'S GREATEST MINDS CONCERNED THEMSELVES WITH YOUR MOTHER'S PROBLEM.
THE RESULTS ARE NOW IN. WE'VE DEVELOPED A SERUM WHICH CAN SAVE YOUR MOTHER'S LIFE.
IT IS TERRIBLY EXPENSIVE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER-- NOT WITH A LIFE AT STAKE.
YOUR MOTHER WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE SERUM EVERY MONTH, BUT IT DOES WORK.
AND WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME, LEX, TO SAVE HER LIFE? YOU WANT TO MARRY ME--
--OR DO YOU JUST WANT ME TO SERVE YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?
WHAT PAYMENT ARE YOU GOING TO EXTRACT FOR THIS?
PAYMENT? I WANT NOTHING FROM YOU. I ONLY WANT YOU TO KNOW MY FEELINGS FOR YOU ARE REAL.
AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I CARE.
I'VE ALWAYS ADMITTED WHAT I AM, LOIS. I PLAY THE GAME OF BUSINESS TO WIN. BUT I'M NOT A CRUEL MAN, NOR THE WICKED ONE YOU'VE ALWAYS ACCUSED ME OF BEING.
LET US HAVE DINNER. PERHAPS YOU'LL FINALLY SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF LEX LUTHOR. DINNER THEN?
I...
...ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT. DINNER THEN.
21


IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW IF LUTHOR'S BEHIND THIS THING, OR IF IT WAS BUILT IN QURAC, OR EVEN ON MARS.
IT'S KILLED BEFORE, AND IT CERTAINLY PLANS TO KILL AGAIN. BUT I GET THE DISTINCT FEELING THIS TIME ITS TARGET IS ME!
WELL, THIS MAY BE SUICIDE, BUT SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT THING.
"INTERESTING... FIVE SEPARATE ROBOTS ALL FITTING TOGETHER. LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A KID'S TOY.
"TROUBLE IS, THE SUM IS DEFINITELY GREATER THAN ITS PARTS.
"AND THE INDIVIDUAL PARTS WEREN'T EXACTLY CHOPPED LIVER."
HERE GOES NOTHING!
METRO
OBRA
ALSO
SISTERS
"FULL POWER SET. WEAPONS READY."
"I TRULY BELIEVE, DESPITE HER QUALMS, SHE ENJOYED HER DINNER."
TAXI
22


WHY DIDN'T YOU RETURN WITH HER?
WHY? I ALREADY WON. TO FURTHER INGRATIATE MYSELF MIGHT JEOPARDIZE MY VICTORY.
MISS LANE NEEDS TIME ALONE TO ACCEPT HER DEFEAT.
SHE KNOWS SHE LOST?
OF COURSE SHE DOES, MY DEAR LILYA. SHE'S SEEN HOW NOBLE AND GENTLEMANLY I'VE BEEN, AND HOW THAT CONTRADICTS HER IMAGE OF ME. AND SHE IS RIGHTFULLY CONFUSED. BUT SHE KNOWS.
YOU SEE, HER MOTHER MUST COME TO ME EACH MONTH FOR FRESH SERUM TO SAVE HER LIFE. EVERY MONTH, LOIS LANE WILL BE FORCED TO REALIZE HOW MUCH SHE OWES ME. HENCE MY VICTORY.
SHE'LL RESENT YOU, WON'T SHE?
OF COURSE, BUT SHE'S INDEBTED TO ME. AND I CAN USE THAT, AND SLOWLY TURN THAT INTO WHAT I WANT.
WHICH IS HER LOVE. AND, IN A WAY, I'VE ALREADY BEGUN THE CONVERSION PROCESS.
SHE ACCEPTED MY SERUM WITHOUT ONCE QUESTIONING JUST HOW I HAPPENED ON THIS MIRACLE SO QUICKLY.
SHE NEVER EVEN SUSPECTED I CAUSED HER MOTHER'S ACCIDENT IN THE FIRST PLACE... OR THAT I COULD HAVE CREATED A SINGLE-USE SERUM INSTEAD.
MONTH IN AND MONTH OUT, LOIS LANE WILL BE FORCED TO GRATEFULLY ACCEPT MY HELPING HAND.
AND THAT IS WHY I'VE ALREADY WON.

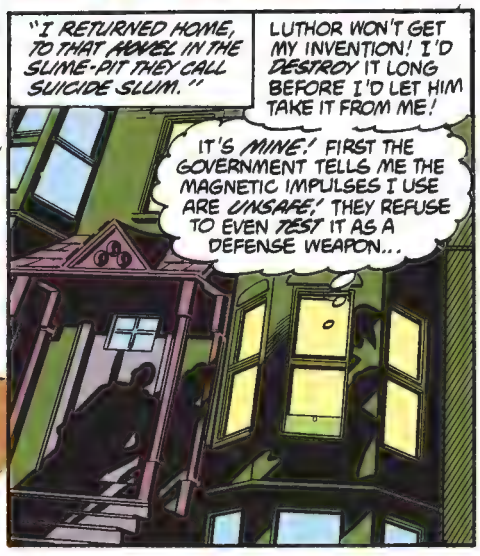

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN®
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
I AM PROFESSOR EMIL HAMILTON. IF AT LEAST ONE PERSON REMEMBERS THAT NAME, MY WORK...
...WON'T HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME... IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT AT LEAST YOU UNDERSTAND. NOBODY ELSE DOES.
I SIMPLY WANTED PEOPLE TO KNOW WHAT I DID... KNOW WHAT THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO KEEP SECRET.
I WAS ACTUALLY ABLE TO CONSTRUCT A MACHINE WHICH COULD IMPRISON SUPERMAN. DO YOU REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT?
PLEASE HEAR ME OUT. PLEASE LISTEN TO ME. PLEASE UNDERSTAND.
WHEN THE GOVERNMENT BLACKBALLED ME, I WAS BROKE. THEN I RECEIVED AN OFFER -- ALMOST OUT OF NOWHERE. FOR GOOD MONEY.
AT LEAST, I THOUGHT IT WAS.
GOING THE GAUNTLET
Marv Wolfman WRITER
Jerry Ordway ARTIST
John Costanza LETTERER
Tom Ziuko COLORIST
Andy Helfer EDITOR

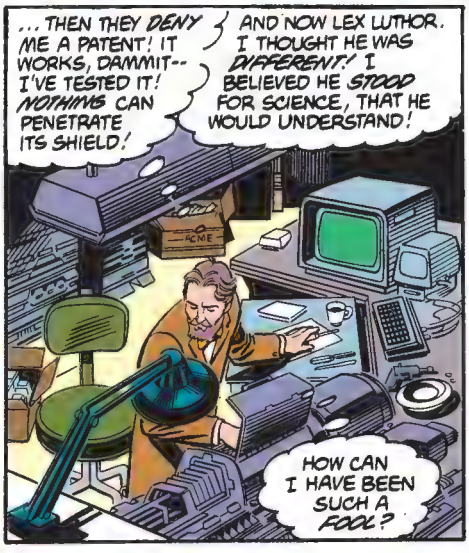

LEX LUTHOR, I'VE WANTED TO WORK ALONGSIDE YOU FOR YEARS. YOUR DISCOVERIES IN THE MID-SEVENTIES WERE ASTOUNDING.
WHY, THANK YOU, PROFESSOR. THOSE DAYS ARE BEHIND ME NOW. I NO LONGER TOIL IN THE LABORATORY... I HAVE OTHERS WHO DO MY RESEARCH FOR ME.
ALTHOUGH, TRUTH TO TELL, ON OCCASION I FEEL THE URGE TO DABBLE.
BOURBON, PROFESSOR?
NO THANK YOU, MR. LUTHOR... I DON'T DRINK.
YOU SHOULD...EVERYTHING IN MODERATION, YOU KNOW.
DRINK, WORK, WOMEN. ALL GOOD FOR THE SOUL.
NOW,THEN, THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT HERE.
I KNOW OF YOUR MAGNETIC FIELD GENERATOR, PROFESSOR. YOU DEVELOPED IT WHILE WORKING AT HITEK, INC., DIDN'T YOU?
YES, WHAT OF IT?
I OWN HITEK, PROFESSOR. YOU WORKED ON YOUR INVENTION ON MY TIME, WITH MY COMPUTERS.
THEREFORE, BY THE CONTRACT YOU SIGNED WHEN YOU JOINED HITEK, I OWN YOUR WORK. ALL YOUR WORK.
NO! IT'S MINE!
THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ARGUMENT HERE, PROFESSOR HAMILTON.
I SIMPLY OWN YOUR GENERATOR, AND I EXPECT TO SEE ITS BLUEPRINTS IN MY OFFICE BY, OH, SHALL WE SAY NINE O'CLOCK TONIGHT?
FAIL TO DO SO AND I'LL SUE YOUR TAIL OFF.
NO! NEVER! I PUT TWENTY YEARS OF MY LIFE IN THOSE DESIGNS!
TWENTY YEARS OF YOUR LIFE AND THREE WEEKS OF MY COMPUTERS' TIME. BUT THE LAW IS THE LAW, PROFESSOR.
2


I'M NOT A HEARTLESS MAN, PROFESSOR. I WAS ONCE A SCIENTIST, THOUGH NOT A FOOLISH ONE LIKE YOU.
LEXCORP HAS ALWAYS INTENDED TO PAY FOR YOUR TIME, DESPITE OUR LEGAL OWNERSHIP. LET'S SEE... THREE WEEKS ON THE COMPUTER...
...SIX DAYS A WEEK, TEN HOURS A DAY. AT THE EXORBITANT RATE OF FIFTY DOLLARS AN HOUR--MINUS DEDUCTIONS, OF COURSE.
$7,600. MORE THAN GENEROUS, CONSIDERING WE ACTUALLY OWE YOU NOTHING.
GOOD DAY, PROFESSOR.

MR. LUTHOR SAID "GOOD DAY," PROFESSOR.
LET'S GO.
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME, LUTHOR! IT'S MY INVENTION! YOU CAN'T STEAL IT FROM ME LIKE THIS!

I WAS WRONG, OF COURSE. HE COULD, AND DID. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, DON'T YOU?


"I RETURNED HOME, TO THAT HOVEL IN THE SLIME-PIT THEY CALL SUICIDE SLUM."
LUTHOR WON'T GET MY INVENTION! I'D DESTROY IT LONG BEFORE I'D LET HIM TAKE IT FROM ME!
IT'S MINE! FIRST THE GOVERNMENT TELLS ME THE MAGNETIC IMPULSES I USE ARE UNSAFE, THEY REFUSE TO EVEN TEST IT AS A DEFENSE WEAPON...

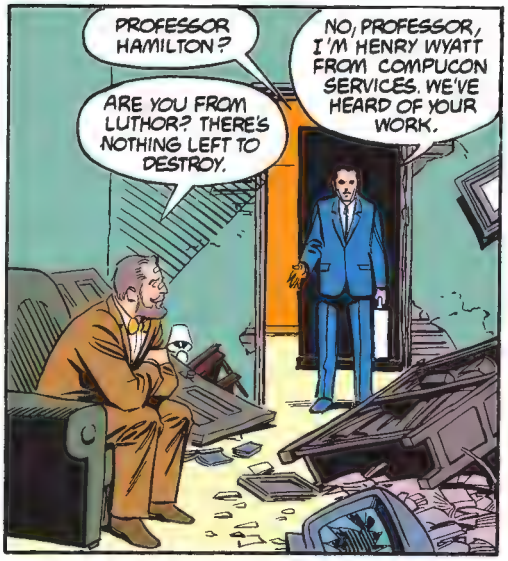

... THEN THEY DENY ME A PATENT! IT WORKS, DAMMIT-- I'VE TESTED IT! NOTHING CAN PENETRATE ITS SHIELD!
AND NOW LEX LUTHOR. I THOUGHT HE WAS DIFFERENT! I BELIEVED HE STOOD FOR SCIENCE, THAT HE WOULD UNDERSTAND!
HOW CAN I HAVE BEEN SUCH A FOOL?

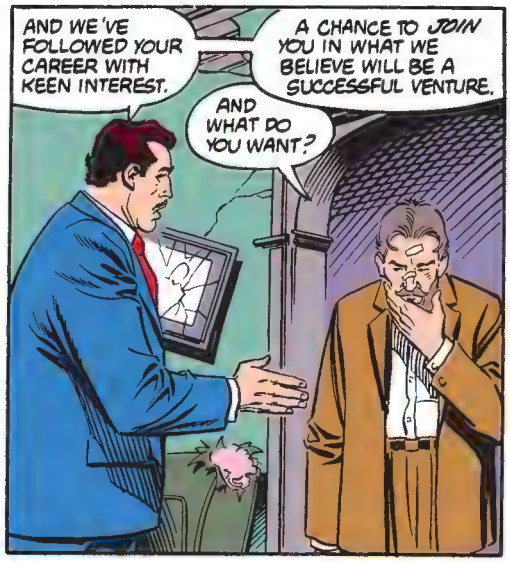
SKRAAK
WH-WHAT IS IT?! WHO ARE YOU?!

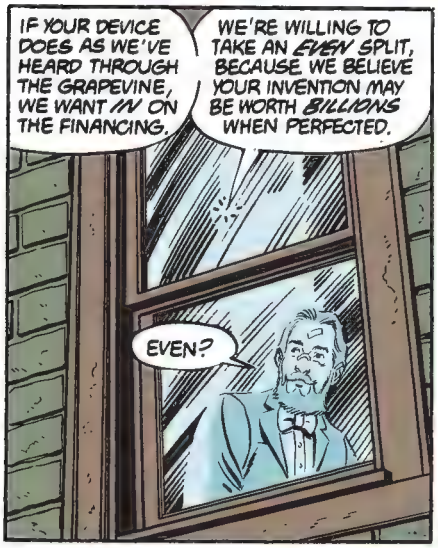
YOUR CONSCIENCE, OLD MAN!
YOU GOT SOMETHIN' THAT DON'T BELONG TO YOU!
GIVE IT BACK, OLD-TIMER. YOUR HEART AIN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE ALL THIS!
GIVE BACK WHAT AIN'T YOURS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
3

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW, DON'T YOU, PROFESSOR?
YOUR MACHINE BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE.
AND UNLESS YOU WANT US TO RETURN HERE--
--YOU'LL GIVE IT BACK TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.
TH-THEY NEVER SAID THEY WORKED FOR LUTHOR, BUT WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?
BUT HOW COULD I PROVE IT? NOBODY BELIEVED ME.
NO CAN DO, PROFESSOR. IT'S YOUR WORD AGAINST MR. LUTHOR'S.
AND HE'S ONE OF OUR MOST RESPECTED CITIZENS.
BUT, LOOK AT ME! YOU MUST DO SOMETH--
METRO POLICE
AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT. LISTEN, DOC-- IF YOU CAN FIND PROOF HE WAS BEHIND THE ATTACK, WE'LL BRING HIM IN FOR QUESTIONING.
UNTIL THEN, I SUGGEST YOU FIND YOURSELF A STRONGER DOOR LOCK.
METRO POLICE
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! I WAS AFRAID LUTHOR WOULD HAVE ME KILLED! I NEEDED HELP!
"THEY HAD TURNED ME DOWN ONCE BEFORE, BUT I WAS CLUTCHING AT STRAWS NOW. SURELY YOU KNOW THAT FEELING."
DEPARTM OF DEFENSE
METROPOLIS DIRE JOHN G ZIER
I'M SORRY, BUT OUR PREVIOUS DECISION STILL STANDS--YOUR INVENTION IS CONSIDERED TOO DANGEROUS TO USE. DISMANTLE IT, PROFESSOR. FORGET IT EVER EXISTED AND TRY INVENTING SOMETHING LESS TROUBLESOME--
--SOMETHING LIKE A CLEAN NUCLEAR DEVICE.
4

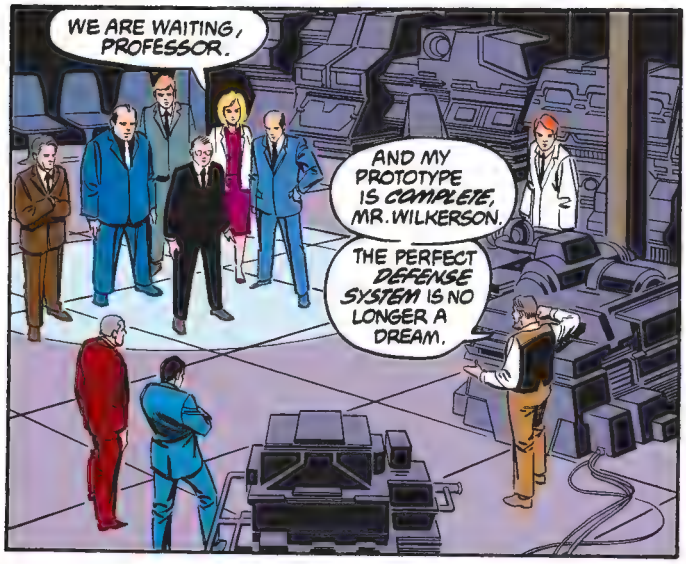
"HAVE YOU EVER BEEN WITHOUT MONEY? WITHOUT HOPE? I WAS AT THAT POINT. I KNEW THE VALIDITY OF MY INVENTION, BUT I SEEMED TO BE THE ONLY ONE. THEN I RECEIVED A VISIT..."

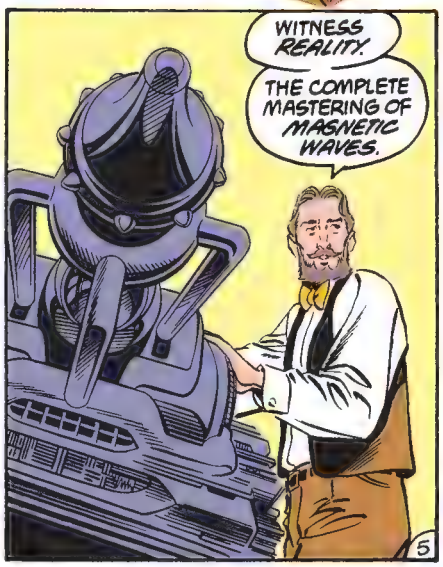

PROFESSOR HAMILTON?
ARE YOU FROM LUTHOR? THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DESTROY.
NO, PROFESSOR, I'M HENRY WYATT FROM COMPUCON SERVICES. WE'VE HEARD OF YOUR WORK.


AND WE'VE FOLLOWED YOUR CAREER WITH KEEN INTEREST.
A CHANCE TO JOIN YOU IN WHAT WE BELIEVE WILL BE A SUCCESSFUL VENTURE.
AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?

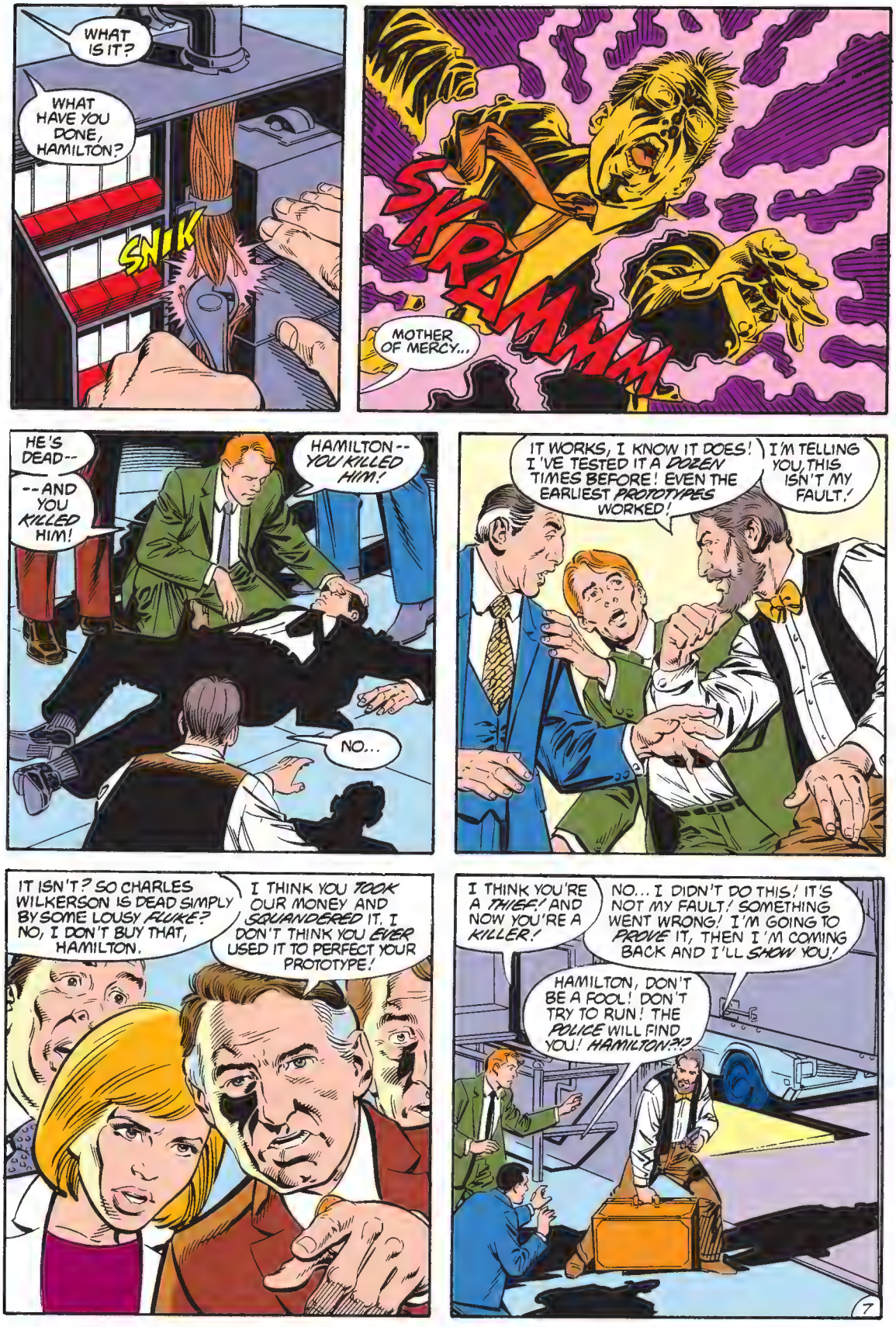

IF YOUR DEVICE DOES AS WE'VE HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE, WE WANT IN ON THE FINANCING.
WE'RE WILLING TO TAKE AN EVEN SPLIT, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE YOUR INVENTION MAY BE WORTH BILLIONS WHEN PERFECTED.
EVEN?

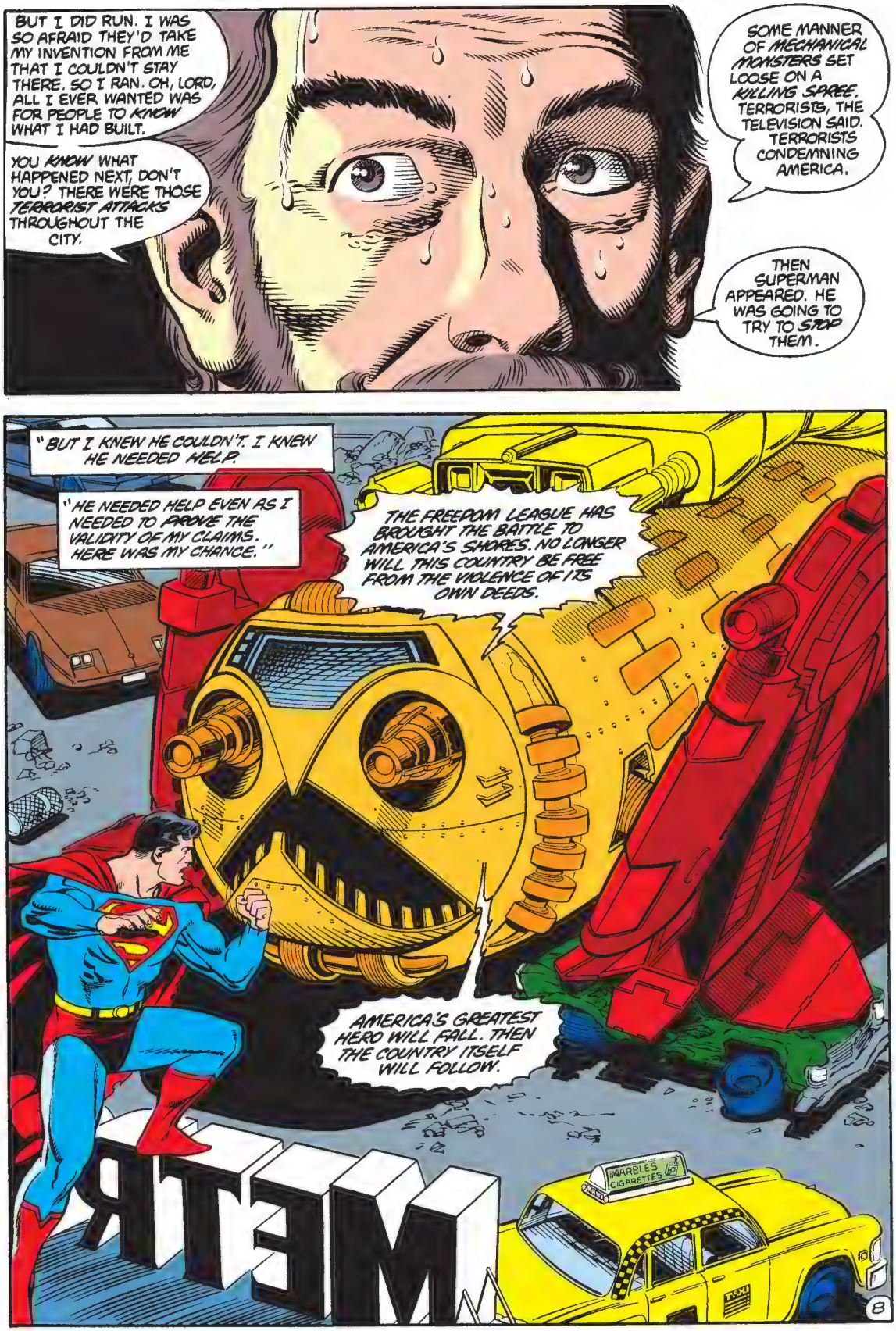
IF IT WORKS, YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONTRACT THAT YOU CAN SHOW TO YOUR LAWYER.
LEXC
YOUR GENIUS WILL MAKE YOU WEALTHY, AND WE WISH TO GO ALONG FOR THE RIDE.

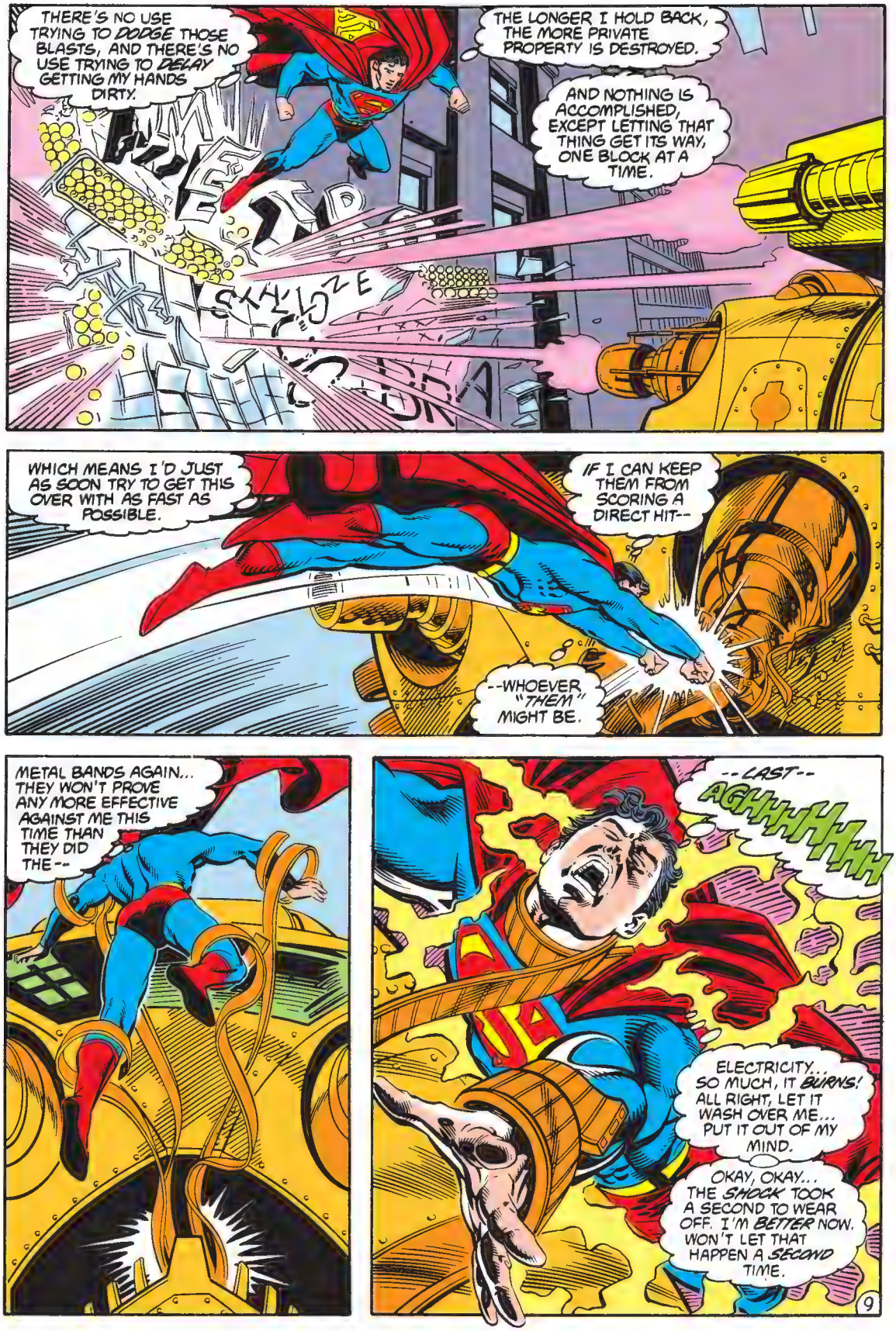




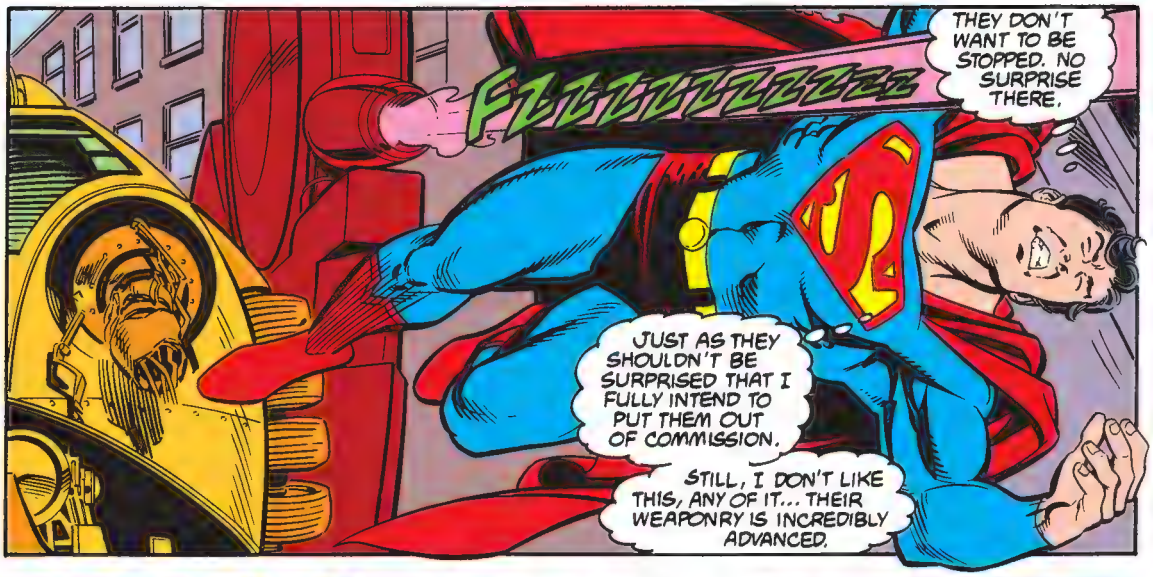
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HAMILTON?!!
GIVING YOU THE PROOF YOU WERE LOOKING FOR; THAT YOU MADE A WISE INVESTMENT.
I'VE FORMED A MAGNETIC CAGE AROUND YOU. ONE THOUSAND COMPUTER-CONTROLLED DEVICES SUCH AS THIS COULD JUST AS EASILY SURROUND OUR COUNTRY WITH A COMPLETE WEB-LINK SYSTEM.
IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, AN ATTACK ON OUR SHORES. THE PRESIDENT'S STAR WARS PROGRAM MIGHT DEFLECT 60% OF THE INCOMING MISSILES ... AT VERY BEST, THAT IS.
90% CAN STILL LEVEL OUR COUNTRY. NOW OBSERVE.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
ARE YOU CRAZY, MAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DEMONSTRATING.
THE BULLETS I FIRED WERE SIMPLY VAPORIZED ON CONTACT WITH MY MAGNETIC SHIELD.
SNIK
SNIK
BUILT TO SCALE, MY DEVICE COULD DO THE SAME WITH MISSILES, WITH OR WITHOUT NUCLEAR WARHEADS.
THE SAME WITH FIRE, ELECTRICAL, OR EVEN BACTERIAL ATTACK.
NOW, THEN, WATCH AS I--
SKRAKKLEKKLEEKKLLEE
SOMETHING IS WRONG!
6

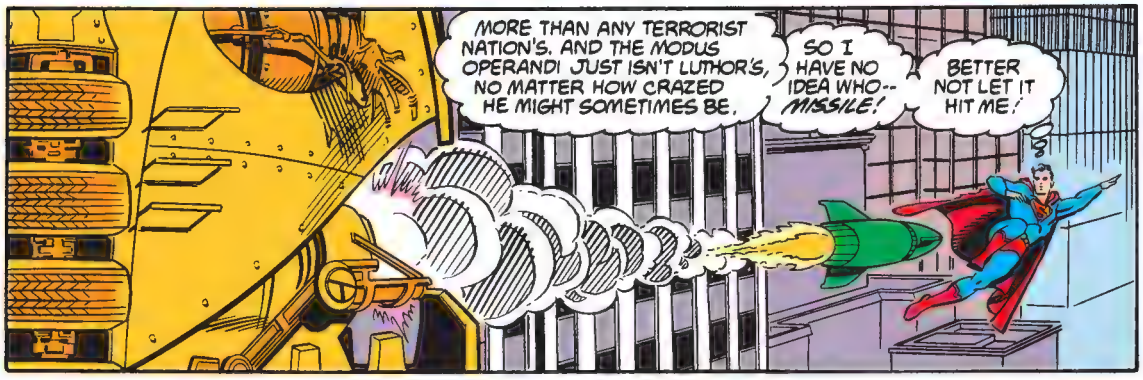

WHAT IS IT?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, HAMILTON?
SNIK
SKRAMMM
MOTHER OF MERCY...
HE'S DEAD--
--AND YOU KILLED HIM!
HAMILTON--YOU KILLED HIM!
NO...
IT WORKS, I KNOW IT DOES! I'VE TESTED IT A DOZEN TIMES BEFORE! EVEN THE EARLIEST PROTOTYPES WORKED!
I'M TELLING YOU, THIS ISN'T MY FAULT!
IT ISN'T? SO CHARLES WILKERSON IS DEAD SIMPLY BY SOME LOUSY FLUKE? NO, I DON'T BUY THAT, HAMILTON.
I THINK YOU TOOK OUR MONEY AND SQUANDERED IT. I DON'T THINK YOU EVER USED IT TO PERFECT YOUR PROTOTYPE!
I THINK YOU'RE A THIEF! AND NOW YOU'RE A KILLER!
NO... I DIDN'T DO THIS! IT'S NOT MY FAULT! SOMETHING WENT WRONG! I'M GOING TO PROVE IT, THEN I'M COMING BACK AND I'LL SHOW YOU!
HAMILTON, DON'T BE A FOOL! DON'T TRY TO RUN! THE POLICE WILL FIND YOU! HAMILTON?!?
7

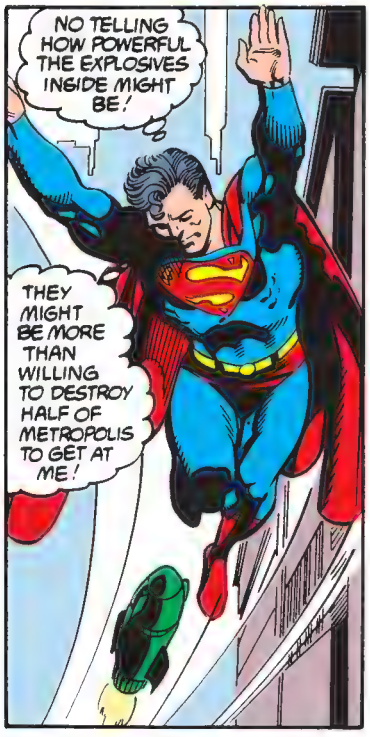

BUT I DID RUN. I WAS SO AFRAID THEY'D TAKE MY INVENTION FROM ME THAT I COULDN'T STAY THERE. SO I RAN. OH, LORD, ALL I EVER WANTED WAS FOR PEOPLE TO KNOW WHAT I HAD BUILT.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, DON'T YOU? THERE WERE THOSE TERRORIST ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.
SOME MANNER OF MECHANICAL MONSTERS SET LOOSE ON A KILLING SPREE. TERRORISTS, THE TELEVISION SAID. TERRORISTS CONDEMNING AMERICA.
THEN SUPERMAN APPEARED. HE WAS GOING TO TRY TO STOP THEM.
"BUT I KNEW HE COULDN'T. I KNEW HE NEEDED HELP.
"HE NEEDED HELP EVEN AS I NEEDED TO PROVE THE VALIDITY OF MY CLAIMS. HERE WAS MY CHANCE."
THE FREEDOM LEAGUE HAS BROUGHT THE BATTLE TO AMERICA'S SHORES. NO LONGER WILL THIS COUNTRY BE FREE FROM THE VIOLENCE OF ITS OWN DEEDS.
AMERICA'S GREATEST HERO WILL FALL. THEN THE COUNTRY ITSELF WILL FOLLOW.
METR
MARLES CIGARETTES
TAXI
8

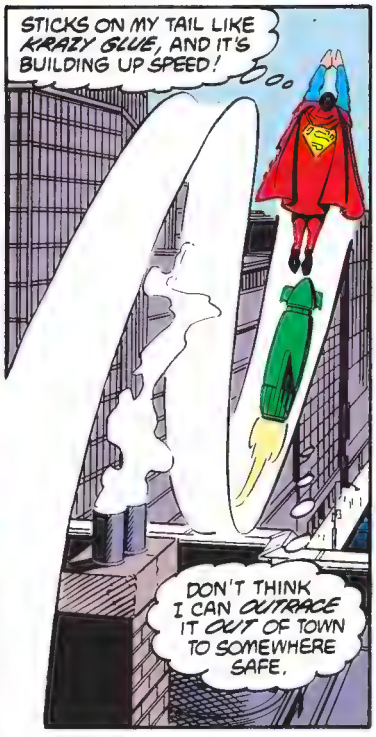

THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO DODGE THOSE BLASTS, AND THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO DELAY GETTING MY HANDS DIRTY.
THE LONGER I HOLD BACK, THE MORE PRIVATE PROPERTY IS DESTROYED.
AND NOTHING IS ACCOMPLISHED, EXCEPT LETTING THAT THING GET ITS WAY, ONE BLOCK AT A TIME.
WHICH MEANS I'D JUST AS SOON TRY TO GET THIS OVER WITH AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.
IF I CAN KEEP THEM FROM SCORING A DIRECT HIT--
--WHOEVER "THEM" MIGHT BE.
METAL BANDS AGAIN... THEY WON'T PROVE ANY MORE EFFECTIVE AGAINST ME THIS TIME THAN THEY DID THE--
--LAST--
AGHHHHHHH
ELECTRICITY... SO MUCH, IT BURNS! ALL RIGHT, LET IT WASH OVER ME... PUT IT OUT OF MY MIND.
OKAY, OKAY... THE SHOCK TOOK A SECOND TO WEAR OFF. I'M BETTER NOW. WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN A SECOND TIME.
9

NEXT STEP IS TO PULL FREE... BUT THESE BANDS ARE NEARLY UNBREAKABLE, EVEN WITH MY STRENGTH.
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY.
BUT THEN, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE, EITHER.
ITS SURFACE IS ELECTRIFIED... SO IT'S BEST NOT TO TEMPT FATE BY TOUCHING IT MORE THAN I HAVE TO.
JUST WHAT I NEED.
GUYS, DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE THAT BEAM?
TAKE ANYTHING YOU WANT, SUPERMAN.
I'LL FIND A WAY TO THANK THEM LATER.
I CAN GO FOR THE HEAD, BUT MY SUPER-HEARING INDICATES THERE ARE PEOPLE INSIDE.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT THEM IF I CAN AVOID IT, EVEN IF THEY MEAN TO KILL ME.
WHICH MEANS IT'S SIMPLY BEST TO GET RID OF THEIR WEAPONRY.
IT SHOULDN'T BE LONG NOW... CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT WHO THEY'RE WORKING FOR. THE TERRORIST NATION OF QURAC? OR LEX LUTHOR? OR COULD IT BE SOMEONE ELSE ALTOGETHER?
SKWUNK!
ONCE I FIND OUT WHO, I'LL FIND OUT WHY. BUT NOTHING'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN STOPPING THEM, AND PREVENTING THEM FROM KILLING ANYONE ELSE!
10

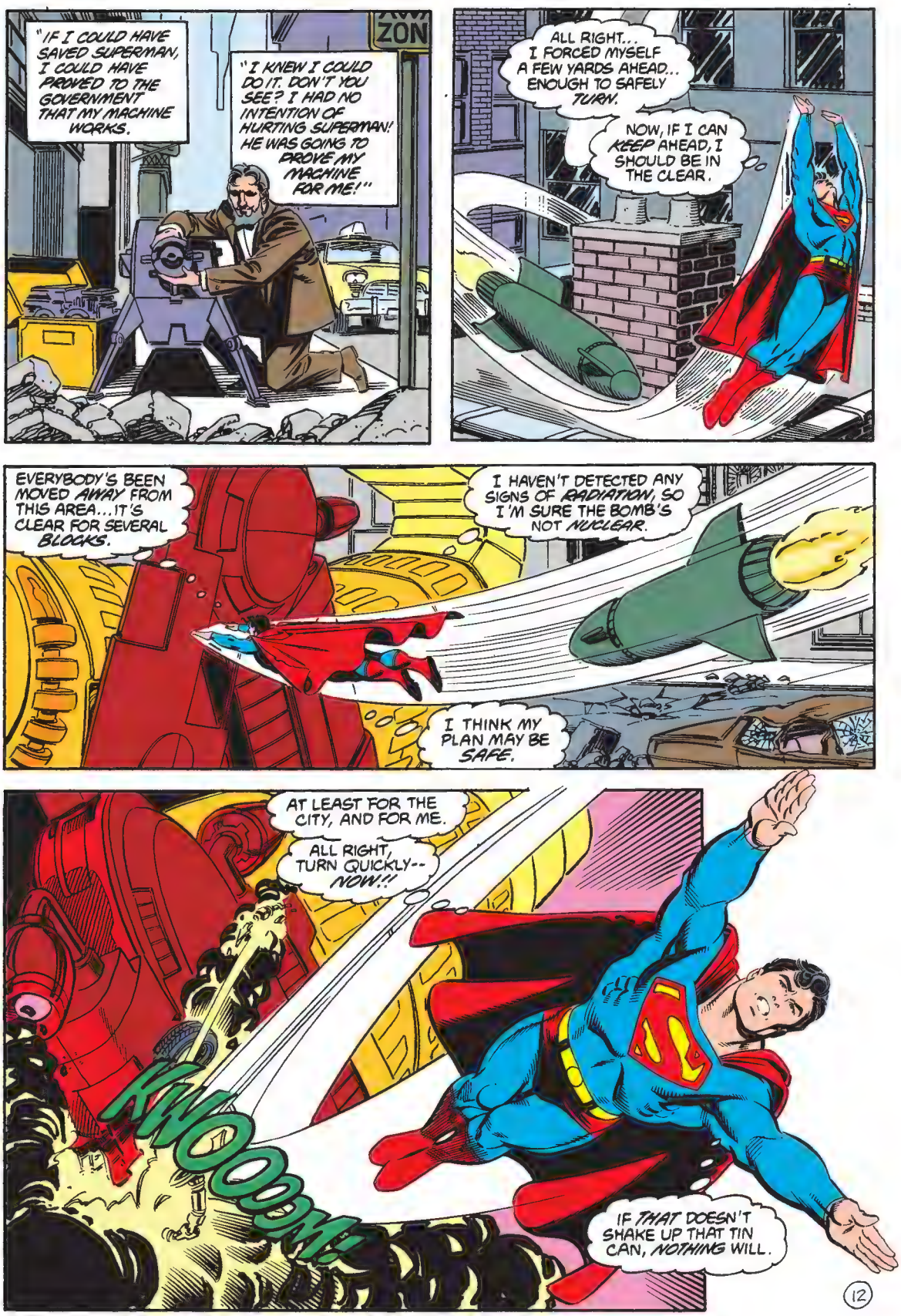

FLEEEEEEEEEE
THEY DON'T WANT TO BE STOPPED. NO SURPRISE THERE.
JUST AS THEY SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED THAT I FULLY INTEND TO PUT THEM OUT OF COMMISSION.
STILL, I DON'T LIKE THIS, ANY OF IT... THEIR WEAPONRY IS INCREDIBLY ADVANCED.

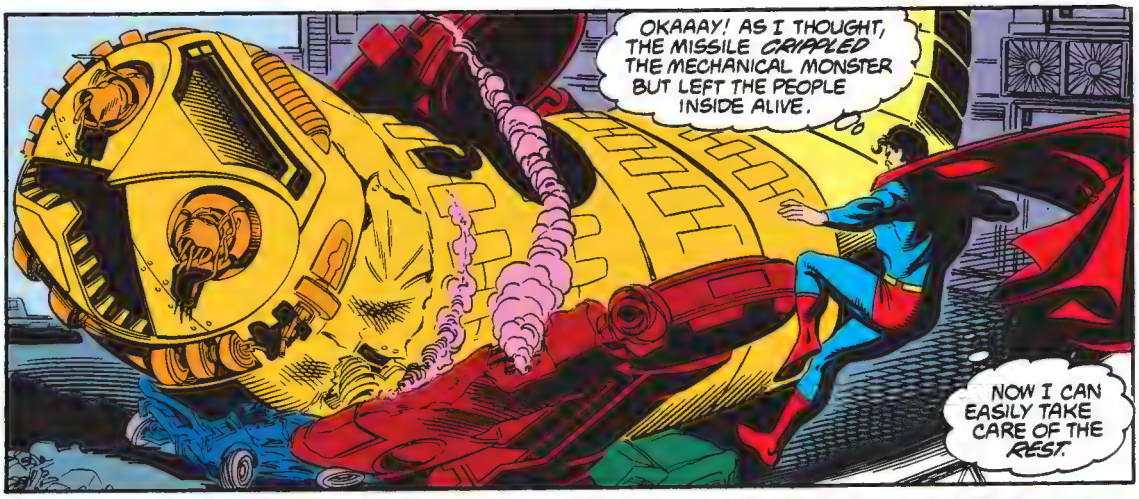

MORE THAN ANY TERRORIST NATION'S. AND THE MODUS OPERANDI JUST ISN'T LUTHOR'S, NO MATTER HOW CRAZED HE MIGHT SOMETIMES BE.
SO I HAVE NO IDEA WHO-- MISSILE!
BETTER NOT LET IT HIT ME!

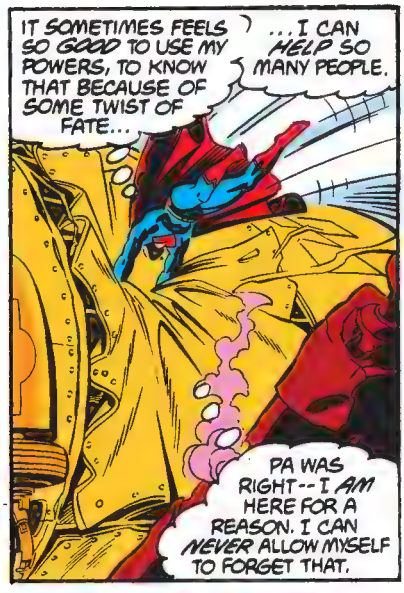

NO TELLING HOW POWERFUL THE EXPLOSIVES INSIDE MIGHT BE!
THEY MIGHT BE MORE THAN WILLING TO DESTROY HALF OF METROPOLIS TO GET AT ME!

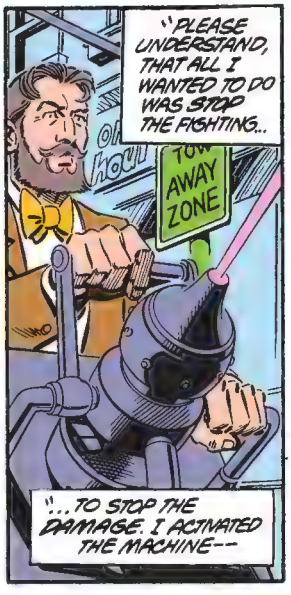

STICKS ON MY TAIL LIKE KRAZY GLUE, AND IT'S BUILDING UP SPEED!
DON'T THINK I CAN OUTRACE IT OUT OF TOWN TO SOMEWHERE SAFE.

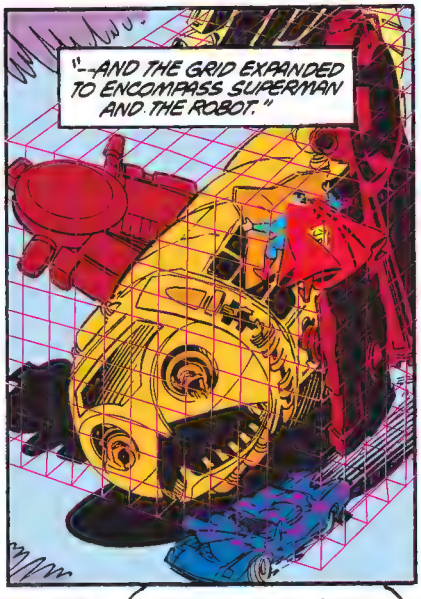
"YOU'RE STILL LISTENING TO ME, AREN'T YOU? IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARE. I WANTED TO HELP SUPERMAN.
"AND IN SO DOING, HELP MYSELF."
BURGER KING
ONE WAY
11

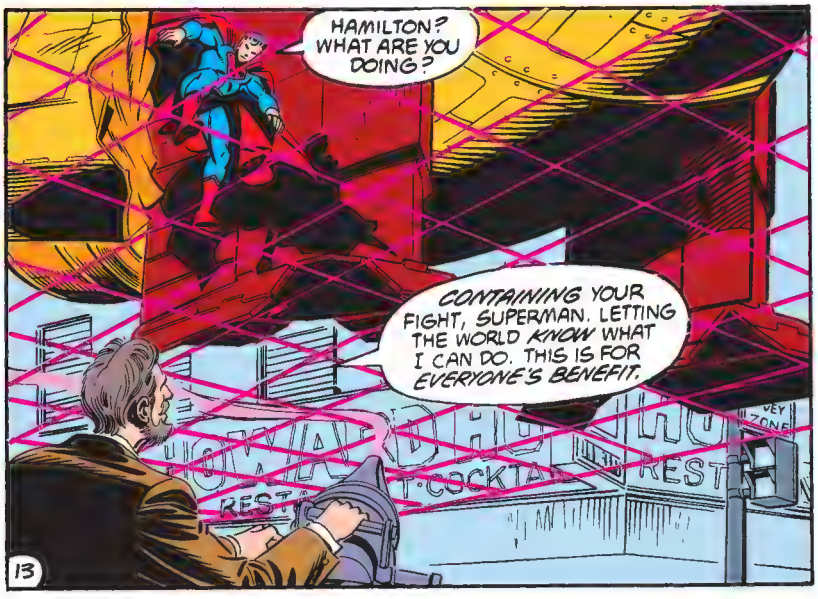

"IF I COULD HAVE SAVED SUPERMAN, I COULD HAVE PROVED TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT MY MACHINE WORKS.
"I KNEW I COULD DO IT. DON'T YOU SEE? I HAD NO INTENTION OF HURTING SUPERMAN! HE WAS GOING TO PROVE MY MACHINE FOR ME!"
ZON
ALL RIGHT... I FORCED MYSELF A FEW YARDS AHEAD... ENOUGH TO SAFELY TURN.
NOW, IF I CAN KEEP AHEAD, I SHOULD BE IN THE CLEAR.
EVERYBODY'S BEEN MOVED AWAY FROM THIS AREA... IT'S CLEAR FOR SEVERAL BLOCKS.
I HAVEN'T DETECTED ANY SIGNS OF RADIATION, SO I'M SURE THE BOMB'S NOT NUCLEAR.
I THINK MY PLAN MAY BE SAFE.
AT LEAST FOR THE CITY, AND FOR ME.
ALL RIGHT, TURN QUICKLY-- NOW!!
KWOOOM
IF THAT DOESN'T SHAKE UP THAT TIN CAN, NOTHING WILL.
12


OKAAAY! AS I THOUGHT, THE MISSILE CRIPPLED THE MECHANICAL MONSTER BUT LEFT THE PEOPLE INSIDE ALIVE.
NOW I CAN EASILY TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

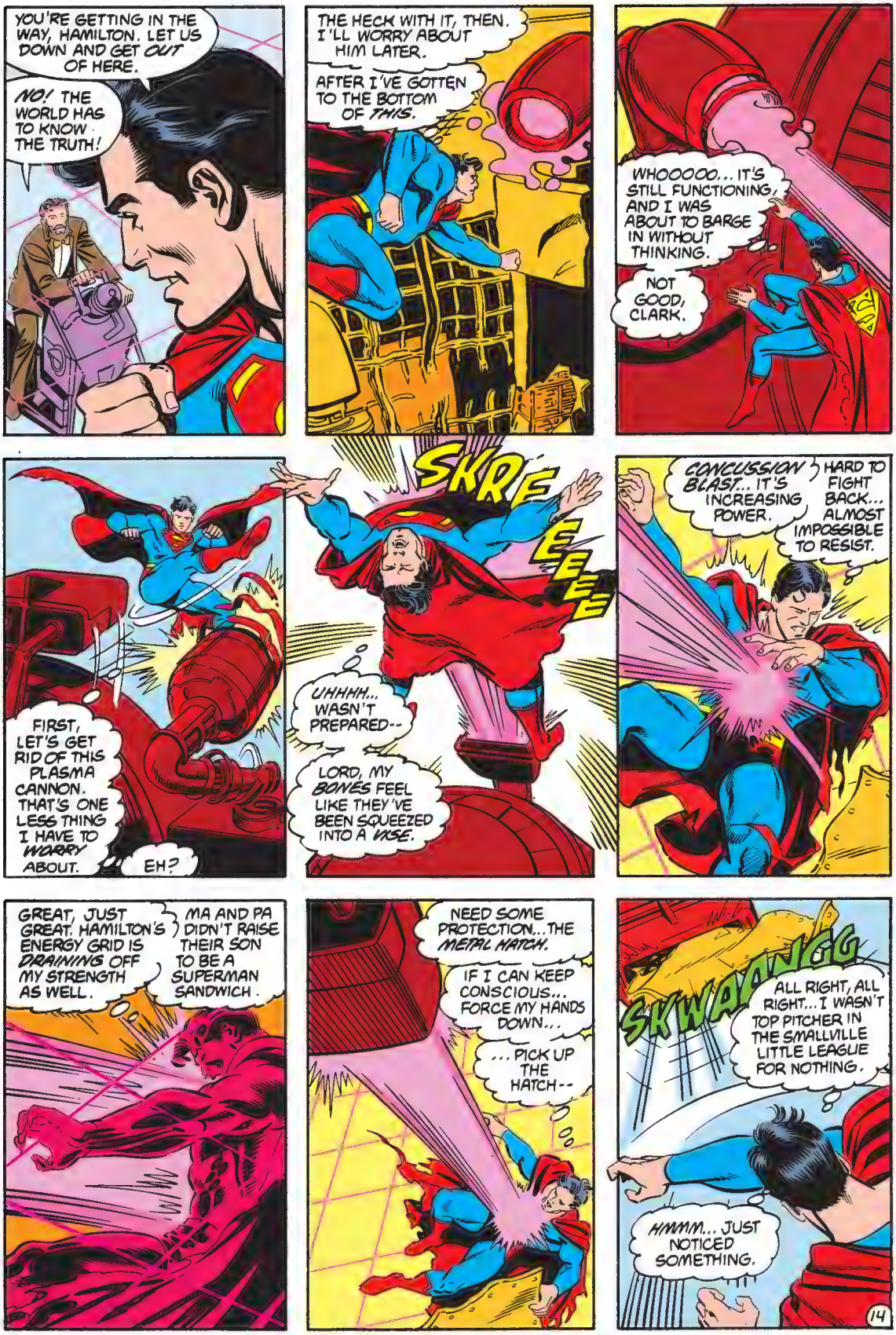

IT SOMETIMES FEELS SO GOOD TO USE MY POWERS, TO KNOW THAT BECAUSE OF SOME TWIST OF FATE...
...I CAN HELP SO MANY PEOPLE.
PA WAS RIGHT--I AM HERE FOR A REASON. I CAN NEVER ALLOW MYSELF TO FORGET THAT.


"PLEASE UNDERSTAND, THAT ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS STOP THE FIGHTING..
TOW AWAY ZONE
"...TO STOP THE DAMAGE. I ACTIVATED THE MACHINE--

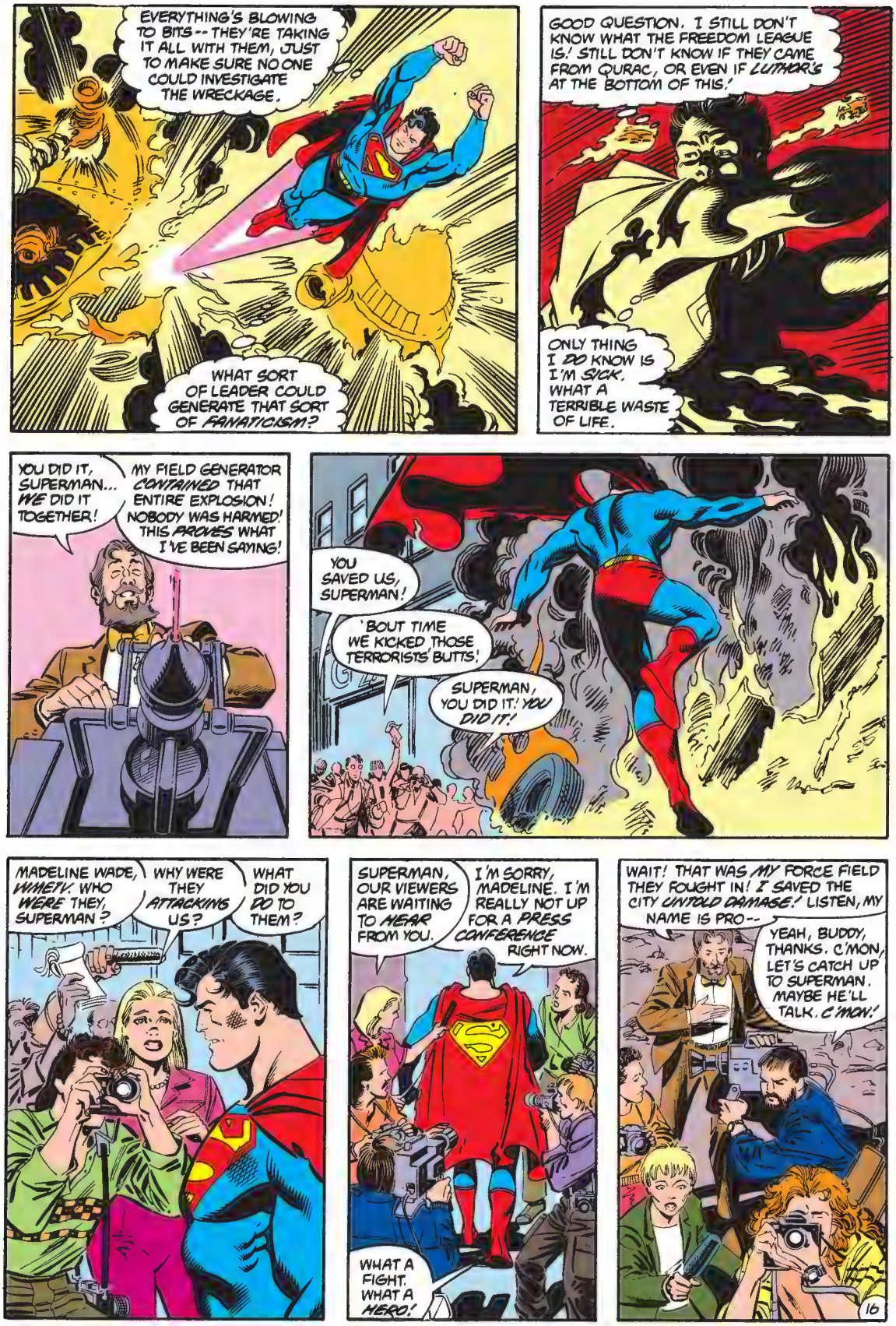

"--AND THE GRID EXPANDED TO ENCOMPASS SUPERMAN AND THE ROBOT."


HAMILTON? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CONTAINING YOUR FIGHT, SUPERMAN. LETTING THE WORLD KNOW WHAT I CAN DO. THIS IS FOR EVERYONE'S BENEFIT.
13

HE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, BUT IT WAS. METROPOLIS WOULD BE SAFE. AND THE WORLD WOULD SEE HOW MY WORK COULD SAVE THEM FROM WAR.
I STILL BELIEVE THAT. YOU DO UNDERSTAND? THE WORLD HAD TO KNOW HOW IMPORTANT MY MACHINE WAS.


YOU'RE GETTING IN THE WAY, HAMILTON. LET US DOWN AND GET OUT OF HERE.
NO! THE WORLD HAS TO KNOW THE TRUTH!
THE HECK WITH IT, THEN. I'LL WORRY ABOUT HIM LATER.
AFTER I'VE GOTTEN TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.
WHOOOOO... IT'S STILL FUNCTIONING, AND I WAS ABOUT TO BARGE IN WITHOUT THINKING.
NOT GOOD, CLARK.
FIRST, LET'S GET RID OF THIS PLASMA CANNON. THAT'S ONE LESS THING I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT.
EH?
SKREEEEE
UHHHH... WASN'T PREPARED--
LORD, MY BONES FEEL LIKE THEY'VE BEEN SQUEEZED INTO A VISE.
CONCUSSION BLAST... IT'S INCREASING POWER.
HARD TO FIGHT BACK... ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST.
GREAT, JUST GREAT. HAMILTON'S ENERGY GRID IS DRAINING OFF MY STRENGTH AS WELL.
MA AND PA DIDN'T RAISE THEIR SON TO BE A SUPERMAN SANDWICH.
NEED SOME PROTECTION... THE METAL HATCH.
IF I CAN KEEP CONSCIOUS... FORCE MY HANDS DOWN...
... PICK UP THE HATCH--
SKWAANGG
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT... I WASN'T TOP PITCHER IN THE SMALLVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE FOR NOTHING.
HMMM... JUST NOTICED SOMETHING.
14

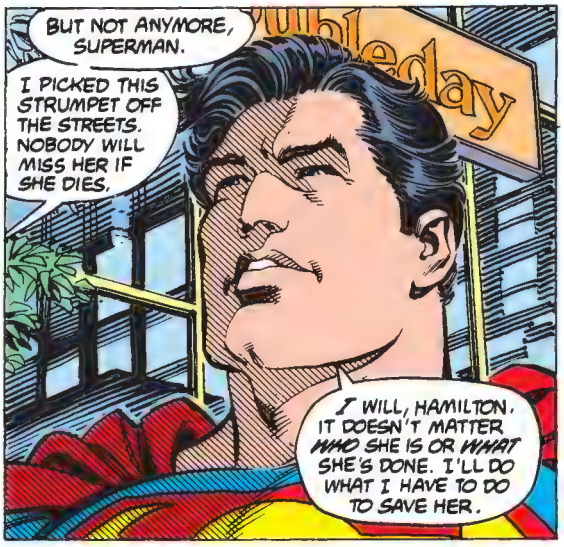
THE FREEDOM LEAGUE'S STOPPED BROADCASTING THEIR THREATS. I HAVEN'T HEARD THEM SINCE THIS FIGHT BEGAN.
FEWER HEARTBEATS NOW THAN BEFORE.
AND I NEVER STOPPED TO THINK WHAT THEIR SOURCE OF POWER IS.
NOTHING MECHANICAL COULD KEEP UP AN ATTACK LIKE THAT FOR SO LONG. AHH, THERE THEY ARE.
PARTY'S OVER. AND I WANT SOME ANSWERS.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING THEM, SUPERMAN.
THE FREEDOM LEAGUE WILL NOT SURRENDER.
AND YOU WILL NOT TAKE US YOUR PRISONERS.
THE VESSEL IS POWERED BY OUR ENERGIES... IT FEEDS OFF OUR BRAINWAVES.
WE ARE PART OF THESE MACHINES...
... AND WE GIVE OURSELVES OVER TO THE CAUSE--
--NOW!
NO! DON'T-- MY GOD-- DON'T!
SCREEEEEEEEEE
YOU CAN'T KILL YOURSELVES. PLEASE, LISTEN TO ME--DON'T KILL YOURSELVES.
MY GOD...
TH-THEY DON'T CARE...
...THEY JUST DON'T CARE.
15


EVERYTHING'S BLOWING TO BITS -- THEY'RE TAKING IT ALL WITH THEM, JUST TO MAKE SURE NO ONE COULD INVESTIGATE THE WRECKAGE.
WHAT SORT OF LEADER COULD GENERATE THAT SORT OF FANATICISM?
GOOD QUESTION. I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FREEDOM LEAGUE IS.' STILL DON'T KNOW IF THEY CAME FROM QURAC, OR EVEN IF LUTHOR'S AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS.'
ONLY THING I DO KNOW IS I'M SICK. WHAT A TERRIBLE WASTE OF LIFE.
YOU DID IT, SUPERMAN... WE DID IT TOGETHER!
MY FIELD GENERATOR CONTAINED THAT ENTIRE EXPLOSION! NOBODY WAS HARMED! THIS PROVES WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING!
YOU SAVED US, SUPERMAN!
'BOUT TIME WE KICKED THOSE TERRORISTS' BUTTS.'
SUPERMAN, YOU DID IT! YOU DID IT!
MADELINE WADE, WHEW! WHO WERE THEY, SUPERMAN?
WHY WERE THEY ATTACKING US?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THEM?
SUPERMAN, OUR VIEWERS ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU.
I'M SORRY, MADELINE. I'M REALLY NOT UP FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE RIGHT NOW.
WHAT A FIGHT. WHAT A HERO!
WAIT! THAT WAS MY FORCE FIELD THEY FOUGHT IN! I SAVED THE CITY UNTOLD DAMAGE!' LISTEN, MY NAME IS PRO--
YEAH, BUDDY, THANKS. C'MON, LET'S CATCH UP TO SUPERMAN. MAYBE HE'LL TALK. C'MON!
16

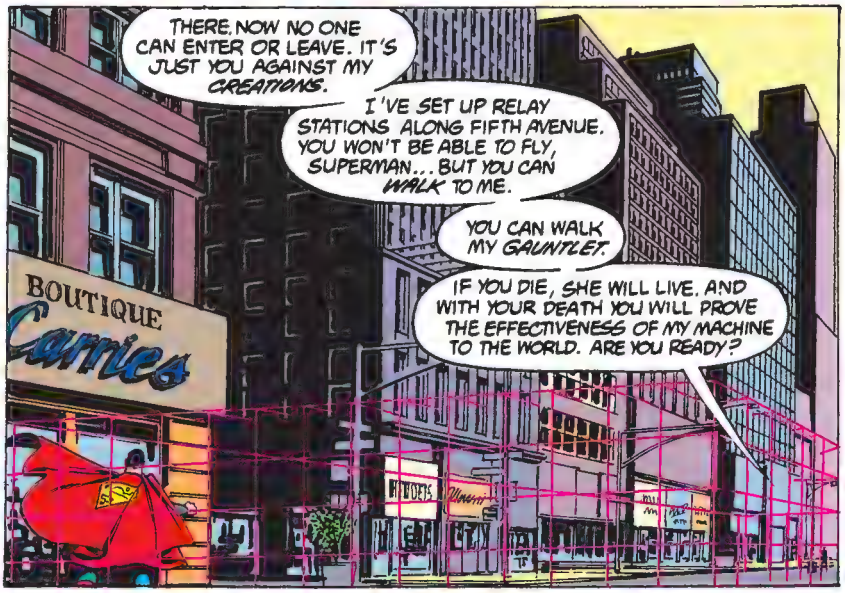
WAIT! YOU HAVE TO HEAR ME OUT! PLEASE, LISTEN TO ME! YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE!
LISTEN TO ME!
THEY WOULDN'T EVEN LISTEN. I COULDN'T GET ANYONE TO BELIEVE ME.
THE GOVERNMENT IGNORED ME. LUTHOR TRIED TO STEAL MY MACHINE. COMPUCON ACCUSED ME OF MURDER. THEY ALL IGNORED ME.
I SWORE TO MYSELF... "NO MORE," I SWORE TO MYSELF. "NEVER AGAIN!"
"YOU'RE LISTENING TO ME, AREN'T YOU? I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO THEN... I KNEW HOW TO PROVE MY CASE!
"I WORKED DAY AND NIGHT THROUGH THE NEXT WEEK.
"ON SUNDAY MORNING, WITH FIFTH AVENUE STILL DARK AND EMPTY, I WAS READY TO SET EVERYTHING IN PLACE.
"AT LAST, WHEN DAWN BROKE, I WAS READY."
SUPERMAN, I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME...
...AND I WANT YOU TO MEET WITH ME, THIS MORNING, NOW. FIFTH AVENUE.
THE WORLD HAS IGNORED ME LONG ENOUGH, SUPERMAN, AND I NEED YOU TO PROVE HOW RIGHT I'VE BEEN. COME TO ME, SUPERMAN. THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT HANGS IN THE BALANCE.
HAMILTON'S VOICE?
DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WANTS, BUT I'VE GOT NO CHOICE. NOT IF THERE'S A LIFE AT STAKE.
17

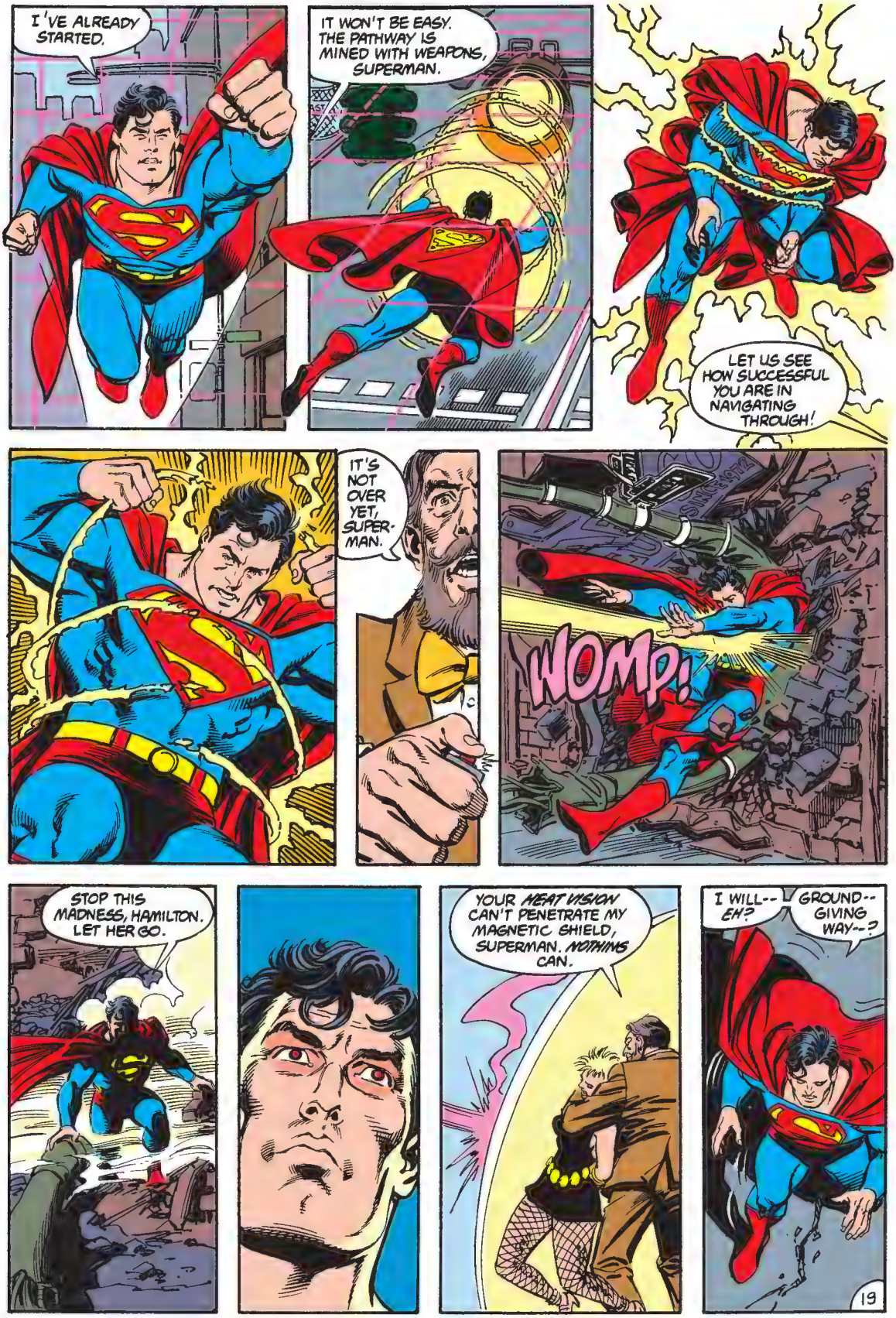
NO COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC
STAND WHERE YOU ARE, SUPERMAN, AND LISTEN TO ME.
LET THE WOMAN GO, HAMILTON. WE CAN TALK.

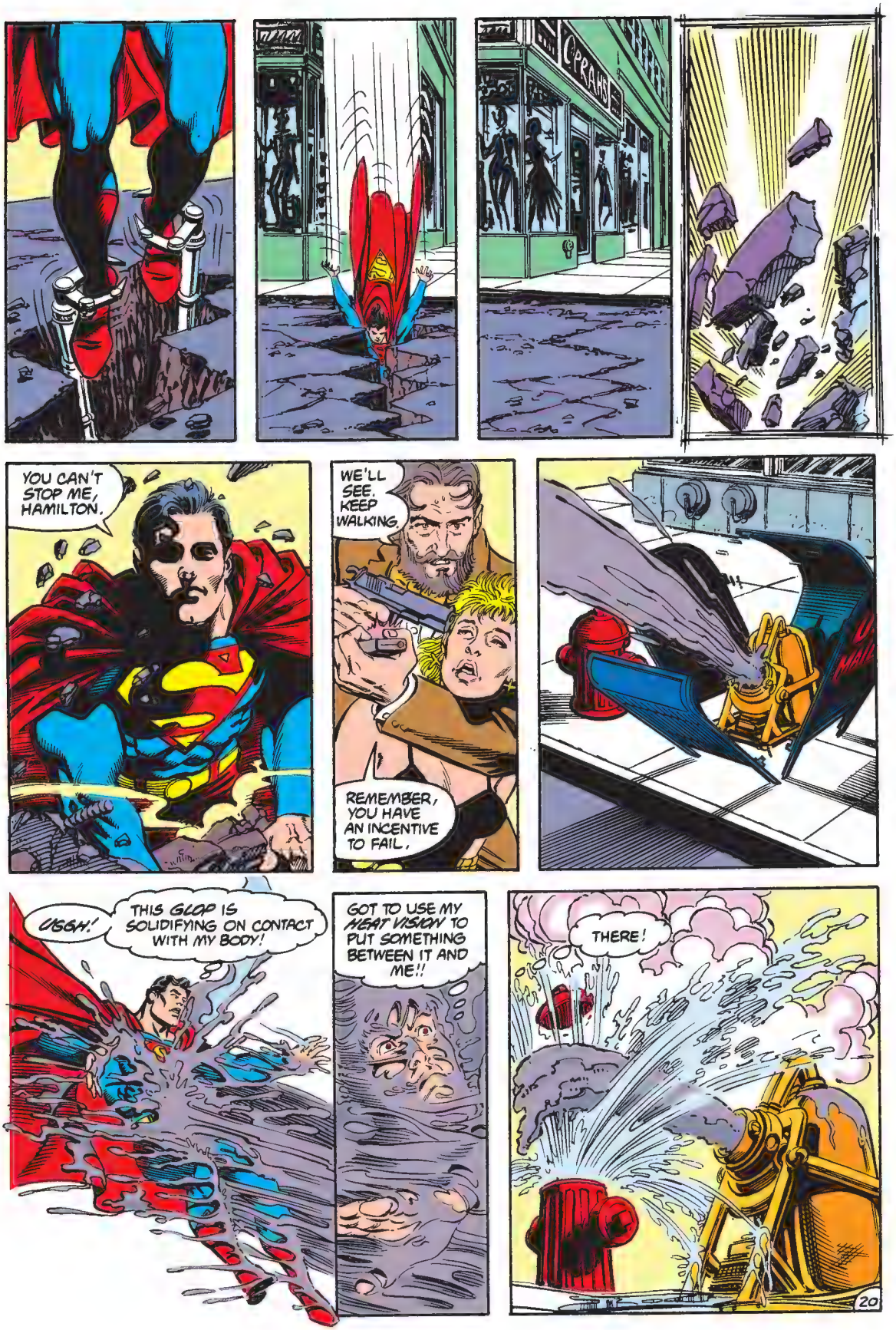
DOES EVERYONE THINK I'M A FOOL, SUPERMAN? LISTEN TO ME-- I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE ANYMORE.
THE GOVERNMENT WON'T LISTEN TO ME. LUTHOR IS FILING MOTIONS IN COURT TO STEAL MY MACHINE.
EVERYONE HAS IGNORED ME.


BUT NOT ANYMORE, SUPERMAN.
I PICKED THIS STRUMPET OFF THE STREETS. NOBODY WILL MISS HER IF SHE DIES.
I WILL, HAMILTON. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO SHE IS OR WHAT SHE'S DONE. I'LL DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO SAVE HER.

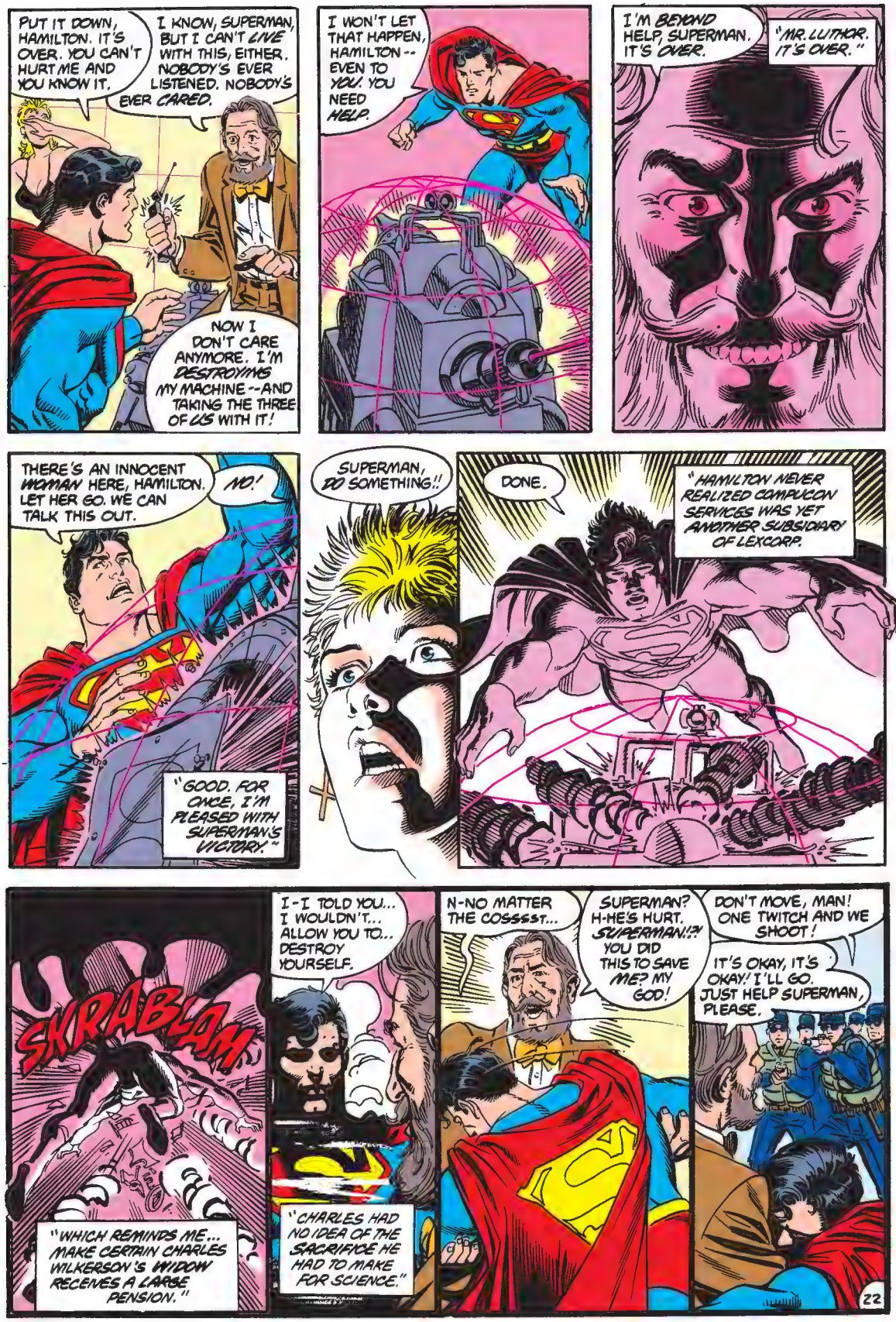
JUST WHAT I EXPECTED YOU TO SAY, SUPERMAN.
KLIK
18


THERE, NOW NO ONE CAN ENTER OR LEAVE. IT'S JUST YOU AGAINST MY CREATIONS.
I'VE SET UP RELAY STATIONS ALONG FIFTH AVENUE. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FLY, SUPERMAN... BUT YOU CAN WALK TO ME.
YOU CAN WALK MY GAUNTLET.
IF YOU DIE, SHE WILL LIVE. AND WITH YOUR DEATH YOU WILL PROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MY MACHINE TO THE WORLD. ARE YOU READY?
BOUTIQUE


I'VE ALREADY STARTED.
IT WON'T BE EASY. THE PATHWAY IS MINED WITH WEAPONS, SUPERMAN.
LET US SEE HOW SUCCESSFUL YOU ARE IN NAVIGATING THROUGH!
IT'S NOT OVER YET, SUPER-MAN.
WOMP!
STOP THIS MADNESS, HAMILTON. LET HER GO.
YOUR HEAT VISION CAN'T PENETRATE MY MAGNETIC SHIELD, SUPERMAN. NOTHING CAN.
I WILL-- EH?
GROUND-- GIVING WAY--?
19

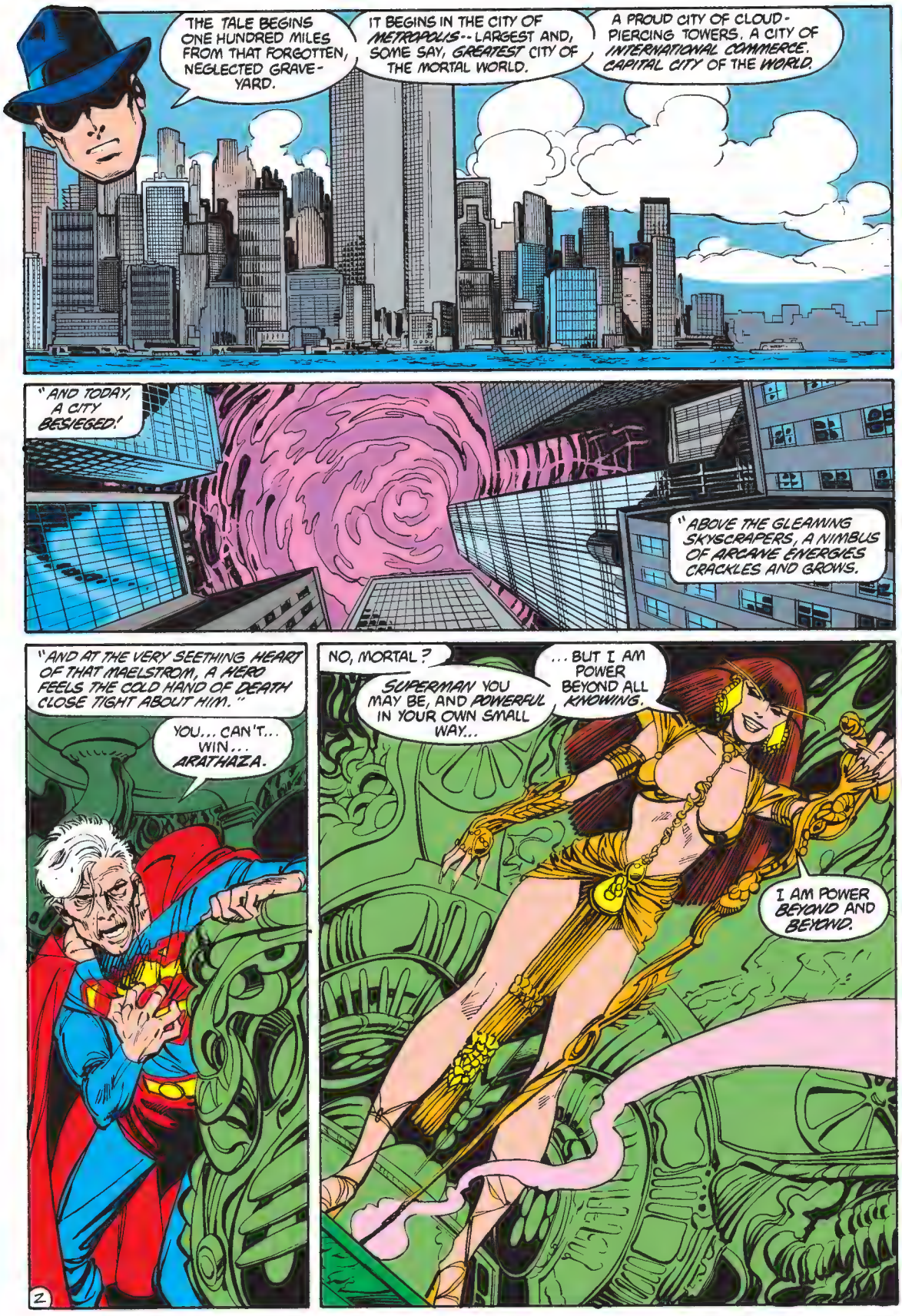

YOU CAN'T STOP ME, HAMILTON.
WE'LL SEE. KEEP WALKING.
REMEMBER, YOU HAVE AN INCENTIVE TO FAIL.
UGGH!
THIS GLOP IS SOLIDIFYING ON CONTACT WITH MY BODY!
GOT TO USE MY HEAT VISION TO PUT SOMETHING BETWEEN IT AND ME!!
THERE!
20

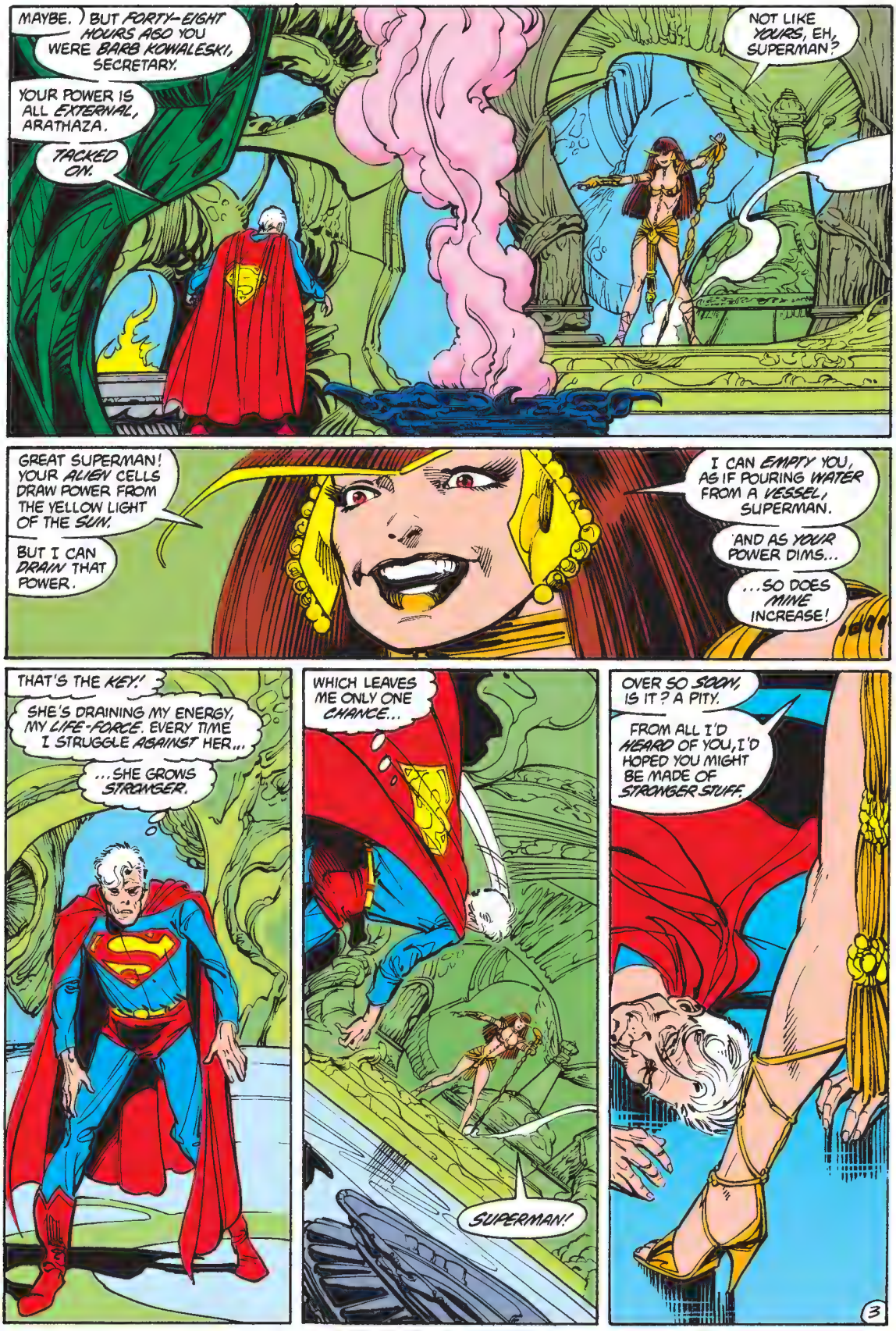
I WON'T BE STOPPED, HAMILTON.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE! MY SCIENCE IS STRONGER THAN YOU!
NO...
... SCIENCE IS NEVER GREATER THAN MAN.
HAMILTON, PLEASE GIVE UP.
WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO IS INSANE!
NO! I'VE BEEN STOPPED TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST! I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO ME AGAIN!
21

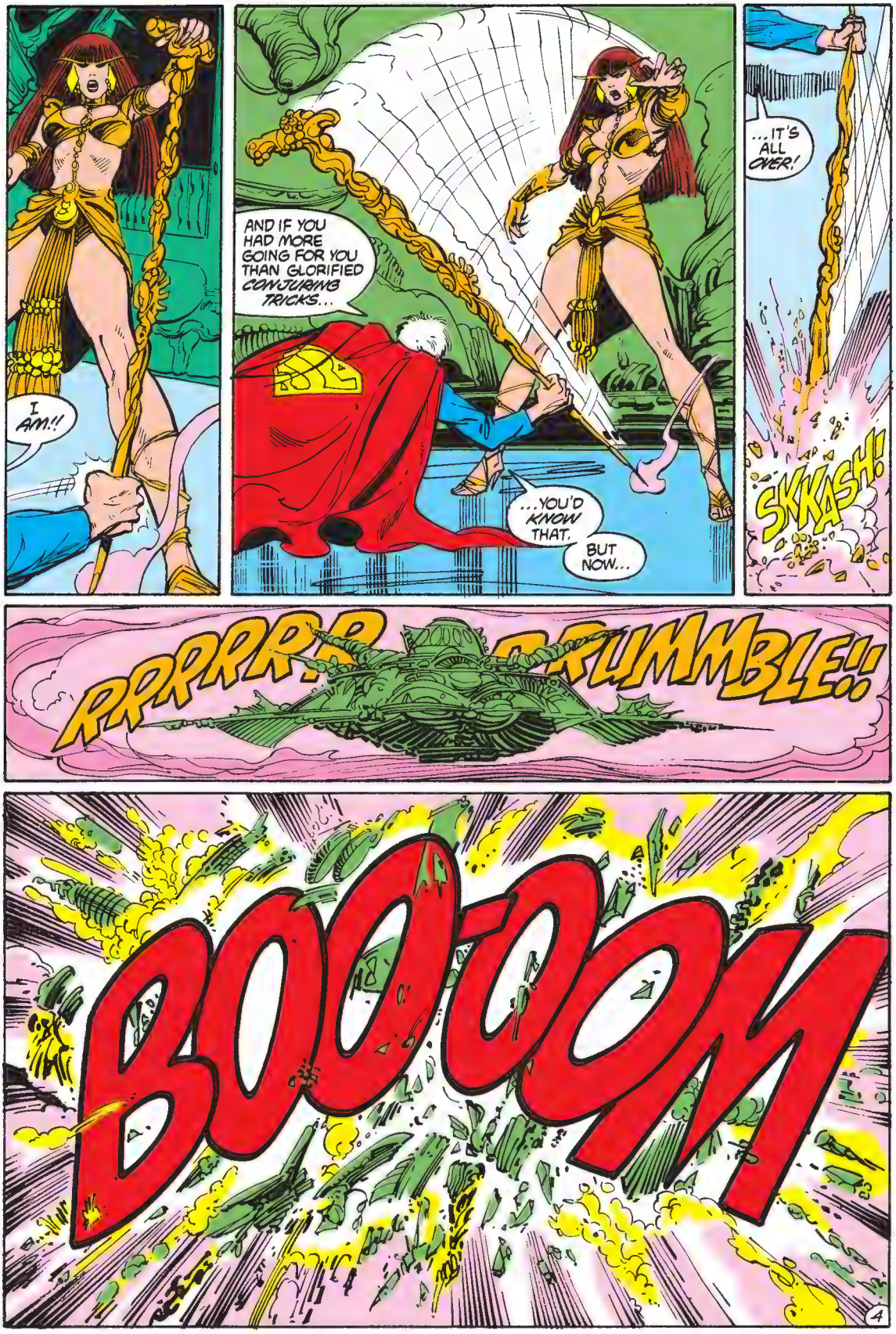

PUT IT DOWN, HAMILTON. IT'S OVER. YOU CAN'T HURT ME AND YOU KNOW IT.
I KNOW, SUPERMAN, BUT I CAN'T LIVE WITH THIS, EITHER. NOBODY'S EVER LISTENED. NOBODY'S EVER CARED.
NOW I DON'T CARE ANYMORE. I'M DESTROYING MY MACHINE--AND TAKING THE THREE OF US WITH IT!
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN, HAMILTON--EVEN TO YOU. YOU NEED HELP.
I'M BEYOND HELP, SUPERMAN. IT'S OVER.
"MR. LUTHOR. IT'S OVER."
THERE'S AN INNOCENT WOMAN HERE, HAMILTON. LET HER GO. WE CAN TALK THIS OUT.
NO!
"GOOD. FOR ONCE, I'M PLEASED WITH SUPERMAN'S VICTORY."
SUPERMAN, DO SOMETHING!!
DONE.
"HAMILTON NEVER REALIZED COMPUCON SERVICES WAS YET ANOTHER SUBSIDIARY OF LEXCORP.
SKRABLAM
"WHICH REMINDS ME... MAKE CERTAIN CHARLES WILKERSON'S WIDOW RECEIVES A LARGE PENSION."
I-I TOLD YOU... I WOULDN'T... ALLOW YOU TO... DESTROY YOURSELF.
"CHARLES HAD NO IDEA OF THE SACRIFICE HE HAD TO MAKE FOR SCIENCE."
N-NO MATTER THE COSSSST...
SUPERMAN? H-HE'S HURT. SUPERMAN!? YOU DID THIS TO SAVE ME? MY GOD!
DON'T MOVE, MAN! ONE TWITCH AND WE SHOOT!
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY! I'LL GO. JUST HELP SUPERMAN, PLEASE.
22

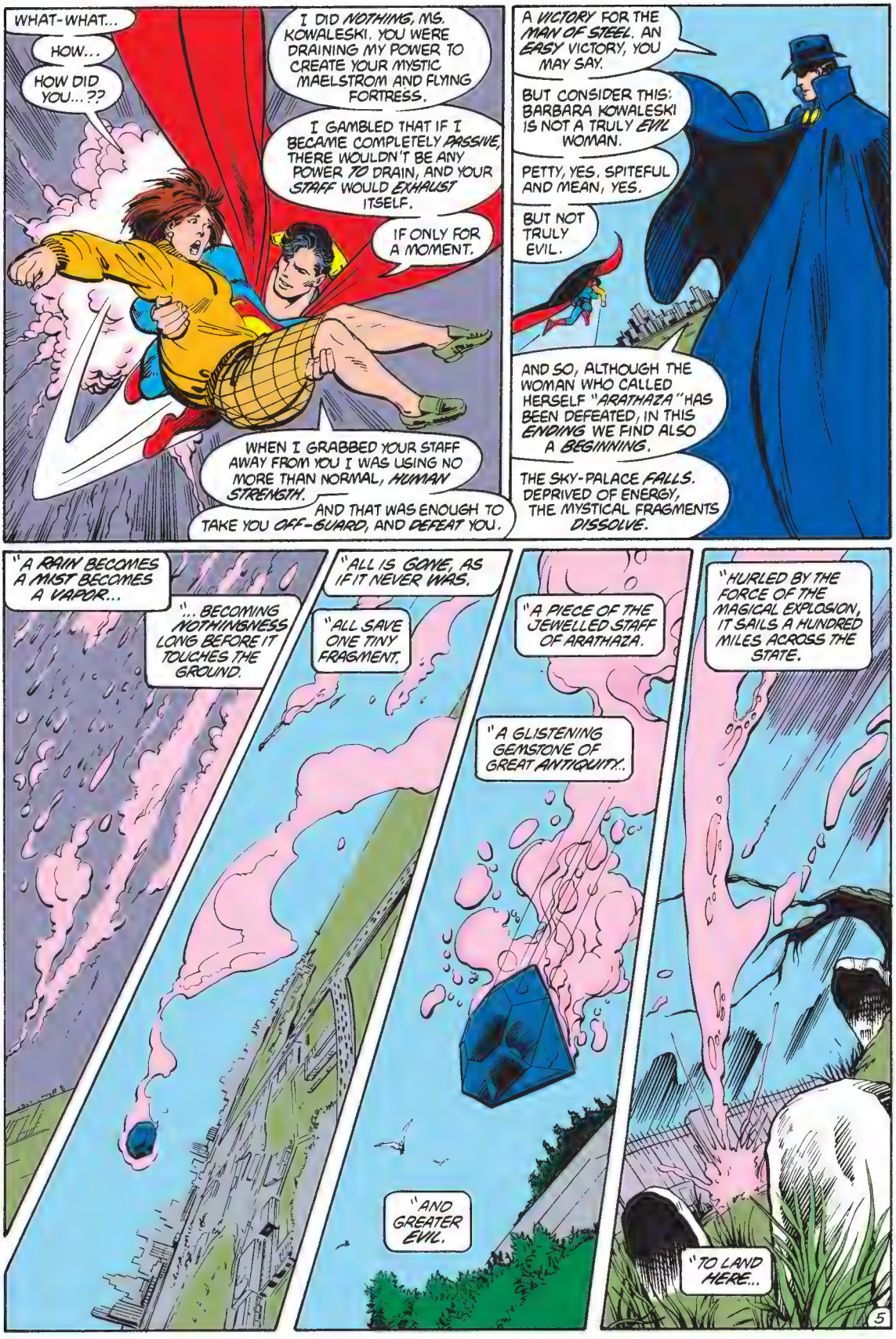
I GAVE UP. IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS THAT. I TRIED TO TELL THE REPORTERS ABOUT MY MACHINE, BUT THEY DIDN'T CARE.
NOBODY EVER LISTENED.
BY NOW, LUTHOR PROBABLY HAS MY MACHINE..
NOW HE'LL TAKE THE CREDIT FOR MY GENIUS, WHILE I ROT HERE. IT'S NOT AT ALL FAIR. NOBODY WILL KNOW ABOUT ME. NOBODY.
GUARD. GUARD.! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? GUARD.!!
METRO POLICE
.5 MILLION
YOU SAY SOMETHING, MAC.?
SAY SOMETHING?
METRO
NO...
...I DIDN'T SAY A WORD.
NOTHING!
THE End

AND GRAVES GIVE UP THEIR DEAD...
DOES THE SOIL REMEMBER?
CONSIDER THIS PLOT OF LAND, A FEW ACRES OF UNHALLOWED GROUND.
HERE LIE THE ROTTED REMAINS OF A HUNDRED EVIL MEN, THEIR LIVES SNUFFED OUT BY THE SOCIETY THEY DEFIED.
MURDERERS. KIDNAPPERS. RAPISTS. MEN WHOSE LIVES WERE A CATALOG OF PAIN AND DEATH FOR ALL WHO CROSSED THEIR BLOOD-STAINED PATHS.
DOES THE SOIL REMEMBER? DOES EVIL LEAVE ITS BLACK STAIN EVEN ON THE INNOCENT EARTH?
I KNOW. AND I WILL TELL YOU, IF YOU ARE STOUT ENOUGH OF HEART TO WALK A WHILE ALONG THE PATH I DAILY TREAD.
FOLLOW ME... FOR I AM...
THE PHANTOM STRANGER
BYRNE
COSTANZA
GIORDANO
HELFER
1


THE TALE BEGINS ONE HUNDRED MILES FROM THAT FORGOTTEN, NEGLECTED GRAVE-YARD.
IT BEGINS IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS--LARGEST AND, SOME SAY, GREATEST CITY OF THE MORTAL WORLD.
A PROUD CITY OF CLOUD-PIERCING TOWERS, A CITY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE. CAPITAL CITY OF THE WORLD.
"AND TODAY, A CITY BESIEGED!
"ABOVE THE GLEAMING SKYSCRAPERS, A NIMBUS OF ARCANE ENERGIES CRACKLES AND GROWS.
"AND AT THE VERY SEETHING HEART OF THAT MAELSTROM, A HERO FEELS THE COLD HAND OF DEATH CLOSE TIGHT ABOUT HIM."
YOU... CAN'T... WIN... ARATHAZA.
NO, MORTAL?
SUPERMAN YOU MAY BE, AND POWERFUL IN YOUR OWN SMALL WAY...
...BUT I AM POWER BEYOND ALL KNOWING.
I AM POWER BEYOND AND BEYOND.
2

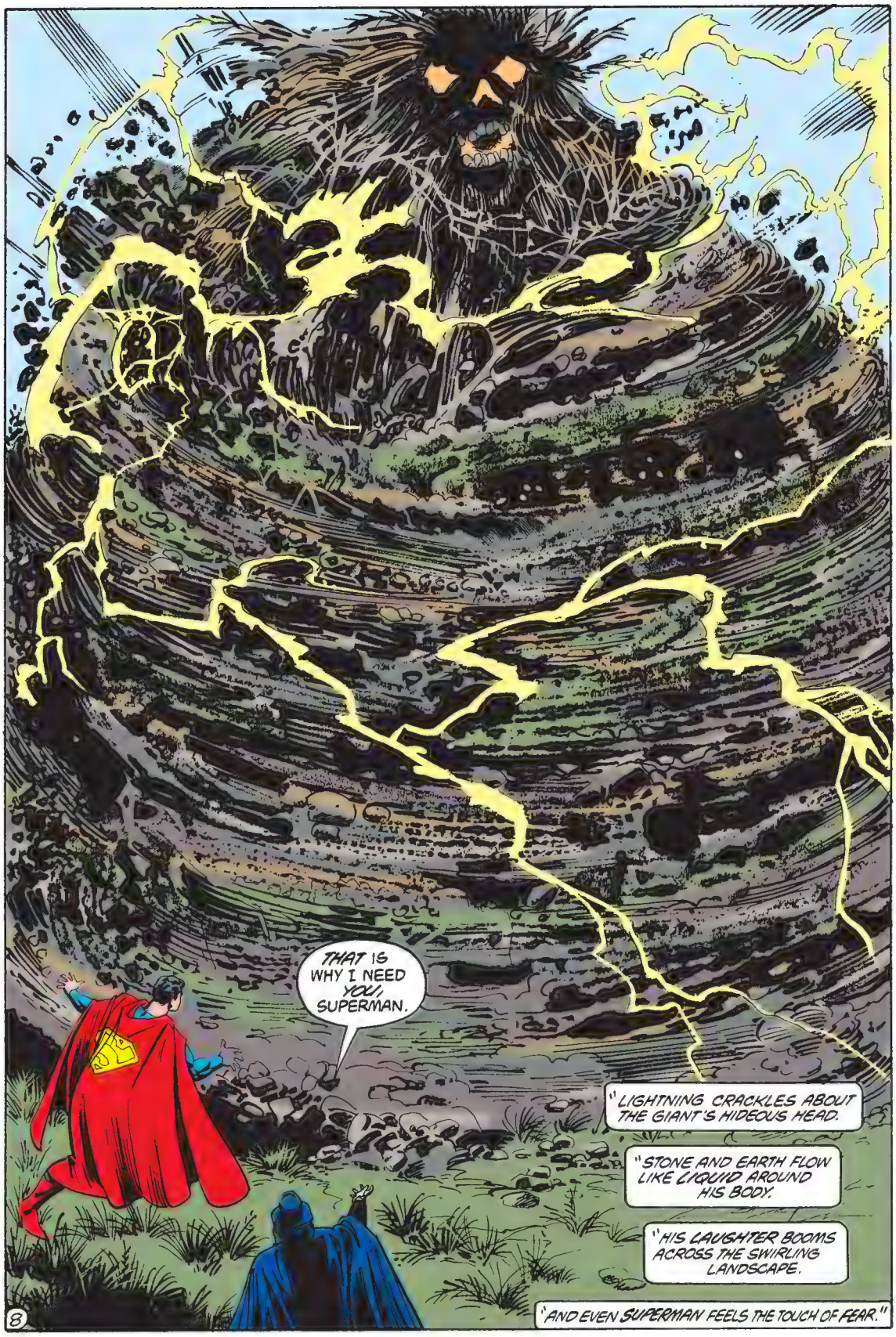

MAYBE.) BUT FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AGO YOU WERE BARB KOWALESKI, SECRETARY.
YOUR POWER IS ALL EXTERNAL, ARATHAZA.
TACKED ON.
NOT LIKE YOURS, EH, SUPERMAN?
GREAT SUPERMAN! YOUR ALIEN CELLS DRAW POWER FROM THE YELLOW LIGHT OF THE SUN.
BUT I CAN DRAIN THAT POWER.
I CAN EMPTY YOU, AS IF POURING WATER FROM A VESSEL, SUPERMAN.
AND AS YOUR POWER DIMS...
...SO DOES MINE INCREASE!
THAT'S THE KEY!
SHE'S DRAINING MY ENERGY, MY LIFE-FORCE. EVERY TIME I STRUGGLE AGAINST HER...
...SHE GROWS STRONGER.
WHICH LEAVES ME ONLY ONE CHANCE...
SUPERMAN!
OVER SO SOON, IS IT? A PITY.
FROM ALL I'D HEARD OF YOU, I'D HOPED YOU MIGHT BE MADE OF STRONGER STUFF.
3


I AM!!
AND IF YOU HAD MORE GOING FOR YOU THAN GLORIFIED CONJURING TRICKS...
...YOU'D KNOW THAT.
BUT NOW...
...IT'S ALL OVER!
SKKASH!
RRRRRR...RUMBLE!!
BOOOM
4

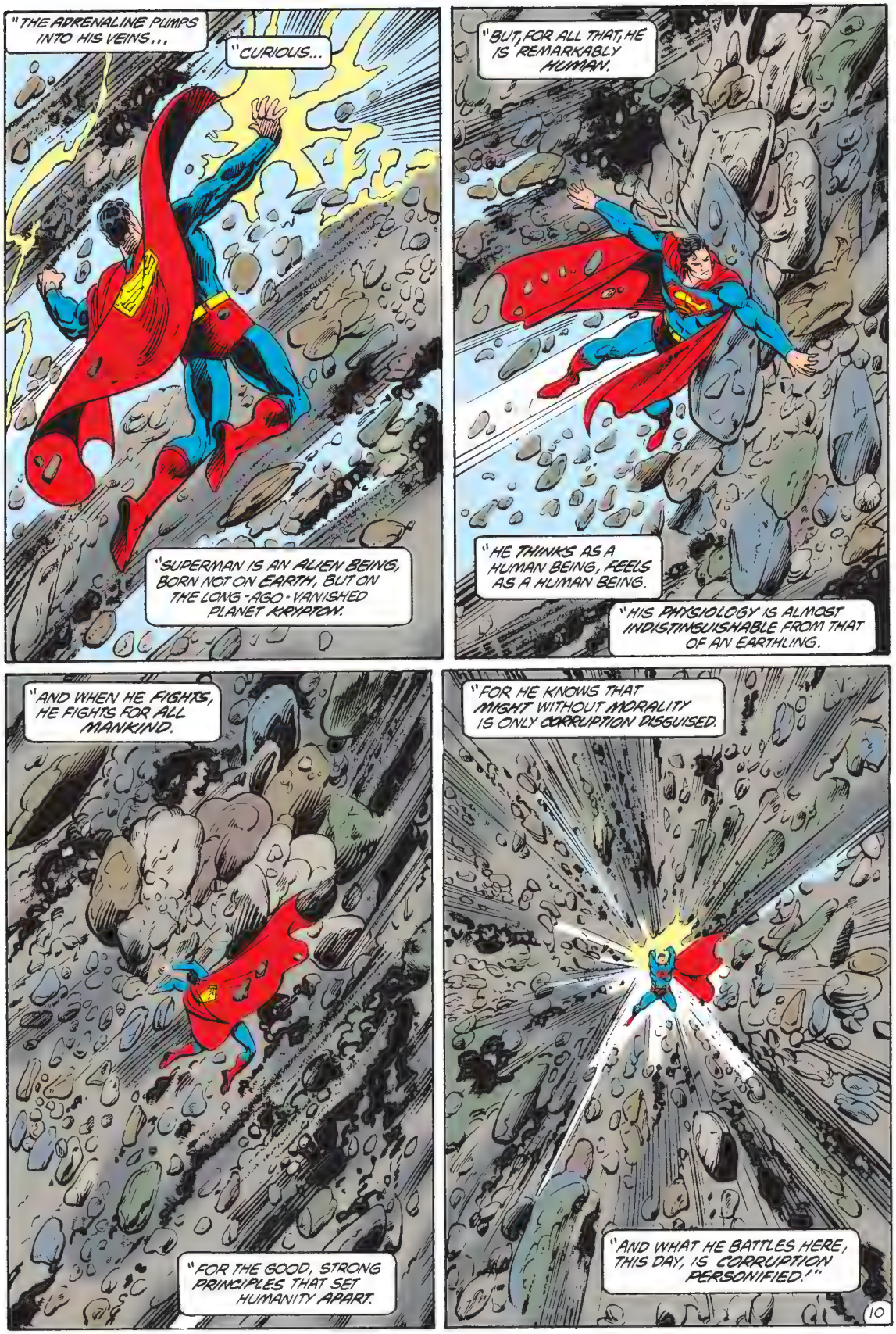

WHAT-WHAT...
HOW...
HOW DID YOU...??
I DID NOTHING, MS. KOWALESKI. YOU WERE DRAINING MY POWER TO CREATE YOUR MYSTIC MAELSTROM AND FLYING FORTRESS.
I GAMBLED THAT IF I BECAME COMPLETELY PASSIVE, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY POWER TO DRAIN, AND YOUR STAFF WOULD EXHAUST ITSELF.
IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT.
WHEN I GRABBED YOUR STAFF AWAY FROM YOU I WAS USING NO MORE THAN NORMAL, HUMAN STRENGTH.
AND THAT WAS ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU OFF-GUARD, AND DEFEAT YOU.
A VICTORY FOR THE MAN OF STEEL. AN EASY VICTORY, YOU MAY SAY.
BUT CONSIDER THIS: BARBARA KOWALESKI IS NOT A TRULY EVIL WOMAN.
PETTY, YES. SPITEFUL AND MEAN, YES.
BUT NOT TRULY EVIL.
AND SO, ALTHOUGH THE WOMAN WHO CALLED HERSELF "ARATHAZA" HAS BEEN DEFEATED, IN THIS ENDING WE FIND ALSO A BEGINNING.
THE SKY-PALACE FALLS. DEPRIVED OF ENERGY, THE MYSTICAL FRAGMENTS DISSOLVE.
"A RAIN BECOMES A MIST BECOMES A VAPOR...
"... BECOMING NOTHINGNESS LONG BEFORE IT TOUCHES THE GROUND.
"ALL IS GONE, AS IF IT NEVER WAS.
"ALL SAVE ONE TINY FRAGMENT.
"A PIECE OF THE JEWELLED STAFF OF ARATHAZA.
"A GLISTENING GEMSTONE OF GREAT ANTIQUITY..
"AND GREATER EVIL.
"HURLED BY THE FORCE OF THE MAGICAL EXPLOSION, IT SAILS A HUNDRED MILES ACROSS THE STATE.
"TO LAND HERE...
5

"FOR A MOMENT THE STRANGE STONE LIES STILL AND QUIET, HALF SUNK IN THE RAIN-WET GROUND.
"THE MYSTIC FIRES WHICH LATELY SEEMED TO FLICKER DEEP WITHIN ITS AZURE FACETS ARE DIM, DYING.
"THEN, WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING, THE FLAMES GROW BRIGHT.
"AROUND THE GEM THE GROUND SEEMS TO RIPPLE, LIKE STILL WATERS DISTURBED BY A FALLING STONE.
"AND THEN...
"OBLIVIOUS TO THIS, THE MAN THE WORLD KNOWS AS SUPERMAN HEADS HOME TO THE SMALL APARTMENT HE MAINTAINS AS CLARK KENT.
"AND IT IS AT THIS POINT I ENTER THIS TALE."
WHAT THE...?
GREETINGS, SUPERMAN. DO NOT BE ALARMED.
A TASK AWAITS YOU.
6

"TASK"?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, STRANGER? AND HOW DID YOU KNOW TO LOOK FOR ME IN CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT?
THE MORTAL WORLD HOLDS FEW THINGS SECRET FROM ME, SUPERMAN.
AS TO THE TASK I BRING YOU... BETTER THAT YOU SEE WITH YOUR OWN EYES.
IT IS A MATTER DIFFICULT TO EXPRESS IN TERMS YOU WOULD COMPREHEND.
AND SINCE I COMPREHEND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING, I TAKE THAT TO MEAN THIS IS SOMETHING OF A SUPERNATURAL NATURE.
WELL, YOUR TIMING IS LOUSY, STRANGER.
I JUST GOT FINISHED WITH ONE MAGICAL MENACE, AND, AS USUAL, FOUND I'M NO MORE INVULNERABLE TO THE FORCES OF MAGIC THAN ANY OTHER MORTAL.
PLUS, THE WHOLE BUSINESS HAS LEFT ME DEAD TIRED.
FIND SOMEONE ELSE, STRANGER. SOMEONE WHOSE TALENTS WORK AGAINST MAGIC. DOCTOR FATE, OR...
SUPERMAN...
...I WANT YOU.
OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
STRANGER, I TOLD YOU I...
...I...
WHAT IN THE NAME OF...??
7

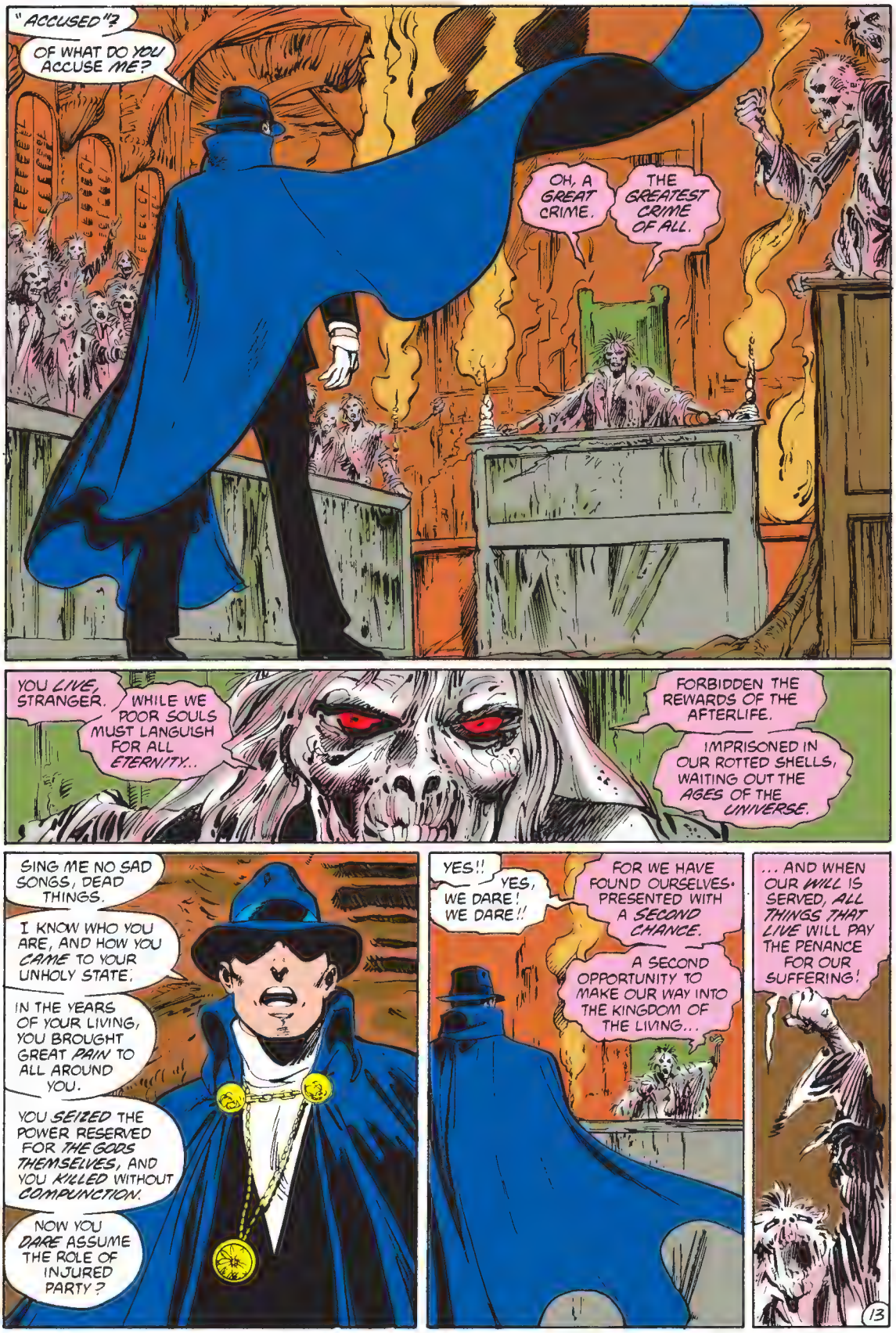

THAT IS WHY I NEED YOU, SUPERMAN.
"LIGHTNING CRACKLES ABOUT THE GIANT'S HIDEOUS HEAD.
"STONE AND EARTH FLOW LIKE LIQUID AROUND HIS BODY.
"HIS LAUGHTER BOOMS ACROSS THE SWIRLING LANDSCAPE.
"AND EVEN SUPERMAN FEELS THE TOUCH OF FEAR."
8

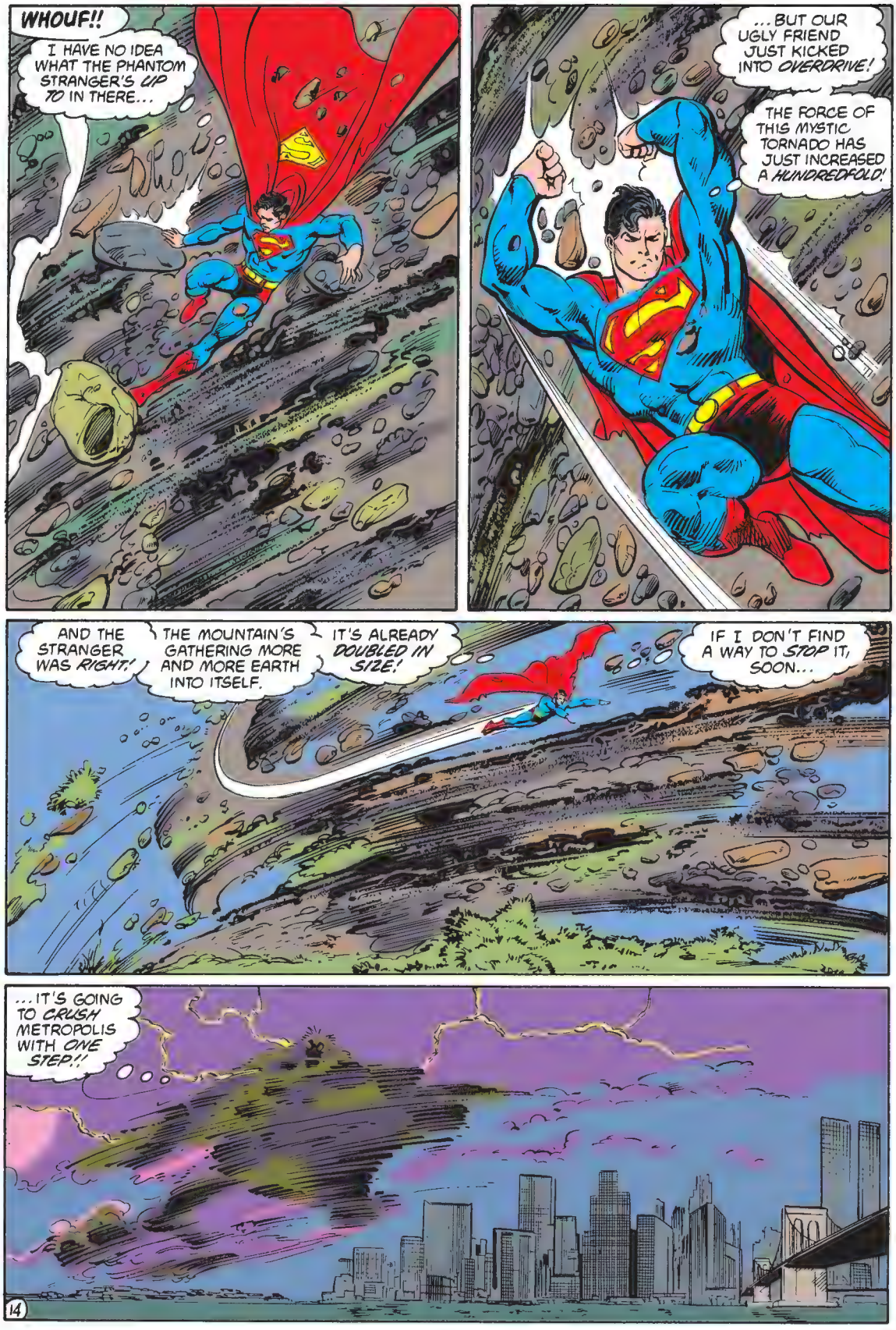
"BUT FEAR IS NOT A CONQUERING THING TO HIM.
"HE KNOWS THE POWER OF FEAR IS A LIE.
"HE KNOWS THAT FEAR CAN TRIUMPH ONLY WHEN THE WILL IS WEAK.
"AND HE HAS STRENGTH OF WILL IN ALMOST INFINITE AMOUNT.
"BY FORCE OF WILL HE SHEDS THE BONDS OF EARTH.
"BY FORCE OF WILL HE HURDLES MOUNTAINS, AND REACHES OUT TO TOUCH THE MANY-CRATERED MOON.
"BY FORCE OF WILL HE PUSHES BACK THE SHARP-FANGED THINGS THAT COME TO GNAW HIS VITALS.
"BY FORCE OF WILL HE TURNS HIS GAZE UPON THE SEETHING HORROR BELOW US ON THE HILLSIDE.
"YES, HE FEELS THE ICY TOUCH OF FEAR, BUT HE IS NOT COWED.
"HE IS SUPERMAN!"
9


"THE ADRENALINE PUMPS INTO HIS VEINS...
"CURIOUS...
"SUPERMAN IS AN ALIEN BEING, BORN NOT ON EARTH, BUT ON THE LONG-AGO-VANISHED PLANET KRYPTON.
"BUT, FOR ALL THAT, HE IS REMARKABLY HUMAN.
"HE THINKS AS A HUMAN BEING, FEELS AS A HUMAN BEING.
"HIS PHYSIOLOGY IS ALMOST INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THAT OF AN EARTHLING.
"AND WHEN HE FIGHTS, HE FIGHTS FOR ALL MANKIND.
"FOR THE GOOD, STRONG PRINCIPLES THAT SET HUMANITY APART.
"FOR HE KNOWS THAT MIGHT WITHOUT MORALITY IS ONLY CORRUPTION DISGUISED.
"AND WHAT HE BATTLES HERE, THIS DAY, IS CORRUPTION PERSONIFIED.'"
10

...HE... ATTACKS... US...
...HE... HURTS... US...
...HE... MUST... BE... PUNISHED...
UNGH!
WHUD!
GOOD LORD!
THERE'S AN INTELLECT BEHIND THAT THING!
IT'S NOT JUST A MINDLESS MASS OF MYSTICAL FORCES...
IT'S ALIVE!!
11

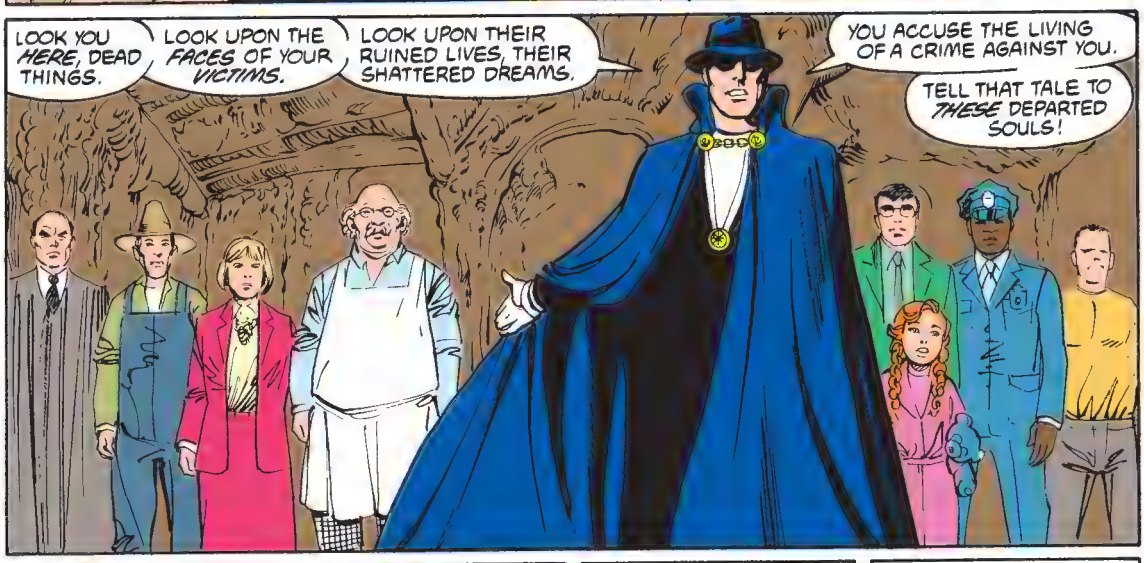
NO, SUPERMAN. DO NOT BE DECEIVED. THERE IS NO LIFE THERE.
ONLY THE MEMORY OF LIFE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, STRANGER? THAT THAT PILE OF EARTH ONLY THINKS IT'S ALIVE?
MAYBE YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THE LATIN SAYING COGITO, ERGO SUM. *
ANYTHING THAT CAN THINK HAS A PRETTY GOOD CLAIM TO LIFE IN MY BOOK.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME IT WAS SENTIENT?
TO AVOID EXACTLY THIS REACTION, SUPERMAN.
I KNOW FULL WELL THE CODE YOU HAVE IMPOSED UPON YOURSELF--THE CODE AGAINST THE TAKING OF A LIFE.
BUT THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE.
THE MIND OF THIS MONSTER IS ALREADY DEAD.
* "I THINK, THEREFORE I AM." --ANDY
WH-WHAT?!?
NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS, SUPERMAN.
WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, THE MOUNTAIN GROWS, SPREADING ITS CORRUPTION THROUGH THE SOIL.
DO WHAT YOU CAN TO CONTAIN IT, SUPERMAN. I MUST FACE THE SOURCE OF THE MADNESS DIRECTLY.
"INTO THE WHIRLING HURRICANE OF ROCK AND EARTH I HURL MYSELF.
"THE TORRENT RISES TO GALE FORCE. BUT I AM ALREADY BEYOND ITS EFFECT.
"I STEP ACROSS THE BARRIERS OF THE DIMENSIONS.
"I LEAVE BEHIND THE SWEET, WARM WORLD OF THE LIVING...
"AND ENTER THE KINGDOM OF THE DAMNED!"
LET THE ACCUSED APPROACH THE BENCH!
12

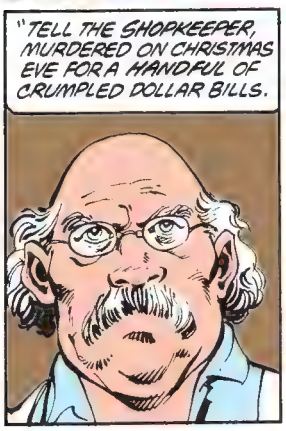

"ACCUSED"?
OF WHAT DO YOU ACCUSE ME?
OH, A GREAT CRIME.
THE GREATEST CRIME OF ALL.
YOU LIVE, STRANGER.
WHILE WE POOR SOULS MUST LANGUISH FOR ALL ETERNITY..
FORBIDDEN THE REWARDS OF THE AFTERLIFE.
IMPRISONED IN OUR ROTTED SHELLS, WAITING OUT THE AGES OF THE UNIVERSE.
SING ME NO SAD SONGS, DEAD THINGS.
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, AND HOW YOU CAME TO YOUR UNHOLY STATE.
IN THE YEARS OF YOUR LIVING, YOU BROUGHT GREAT PAIN TO ALL AROUND YOU.
YOU SEIZED THE POWER RESERVED FOR THE GODS THEMSELVES, AND YOU KILLED WITHOUT COMPUNCTION.
NOW YOU DARE ASSUME THE ROLE OF INJURED PARTY?
YES!!
YES, WE DARE! WE DARE!!
FOR WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES PRESENTED WITH A SECOND CHANCE.
A SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE OUR WAY INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE LIVING...
... AND WHEN OUR WILL IS SERVED, ALL THINGS THAT LIVE WILL PAY THE PENANCE FOR OUR SUFFERING!
13

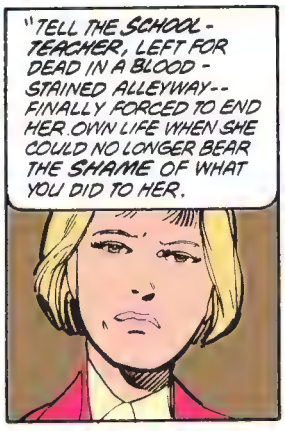

WHOUF!!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE PHANTOM STRANGER'S *UP TO* IN THERE...
...BUT OUR UGLY FRIEND JUST KICKED INTO *OVERDRIVE!*
THE FORCE OF THIS MYSTIC TORNADO HAS JUST INCREASED A *HUNDREDFOLD!*
AND THE STRANGER WAS *RIGHT!*
THE MOUNTAIN'S GATHERING MORE AND MORE EARTH INTO ITSELF.
IT'S ALREADY *DOUBLED IN SIZE!*
IF I DON'T FIND A WAY TO *STOP* IT, SOON...
...IT'S GOING TO *CRUSH* METROPOLIS WITH *ONE STEP!!*
14

I'VE GOT TO STOP IT--AND THE ONLY WAY I CAN DO THAT IS IF I STOP WASTING TIME TRYING TO FIGHT IT.
I'VE GOT TO USE LOGIC!
OKAY--THIS THING GROWS BY DRAWING THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE UP INTO ITS BODY.
AND ITS FORWARD MOTION IS A DIRECT EFFECT OF ITS GROWTH.
SO, IF I CAN STOP IT GROWING, I CAN STOP IT MOVING.
AND THE BEST WAY I CAN THINK OF TO DO THAT IS TO BORROW A PAGE FROM THE FOREST RANGER'S HANDBOOK.
TO STOP A FOREST FIRE, THEY SOMETIMES BURN OUT A SWATH OF LAND IN THE FIRE'S PATH.
THERE! I'VE BLASTED A CHANNEL DOWN TO THE NATIVE BEDROCK!
IF MY GUESS IS CORRECT...
I WAS RIGHT! THE MONSTER CAN ONLY ASSIMILATE LOOSE SOIL AND ROCKS.
IT CAN'T BREAK THE SOLID ROCK TO ADD TO ITSELF.
ITS MARCH TOWARDS METROPOLIS IS HALTED!
BUT FOR ALL THAT, WHAT I'VE DONE AMOUNTS TO LITTLE MORE THAN A DELAYING TACTIC.
THE MONSTER WON'T BE FULLY STOPPED UNTIL IT'S BEEN DEACTIVATED.
AND THAT, I SUSPECT, IS UP TO THE PHANTOM STRANGER!
15

SUPERMAN HAS RESTRAINED THE OUTER FORM OF THIS ABOMINATION.
NOW IT IS TIME TO ATTACK ITS FESTERING HEART.
YOU SPEAK TO ME OF SUFFERING.
WHO ARE YOU TO CRY FOUL, WHO HAVE BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD SO MUCH ANGUISH BY YOUR OWN DEEDS?
WHO ARE YOU TO CLAIM THE PEACE OF QUIET DEATH, WHEN YOUR ONE GIFT TO YOUR FELLOW MEN WAS PAIN.

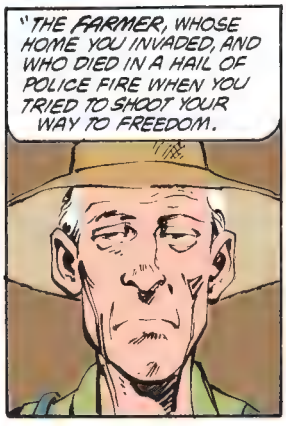

LOOK YOU HERE, DEAD THINGS.
LOOK UPON THE FACES OF YOUR VICTIMS.
LOOK UPON THEIR RUINED LIVES, THEIR SHATTERED DREAMS.
YOU ACCUSE THE LIVING OF A CRIME AGAINST YOU.
TELL THAT TALE TO THESE DEPARTED SOULS!

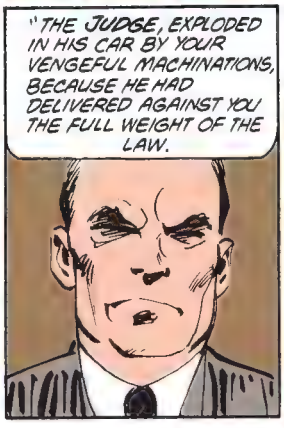

"TELL THE SHOPKEEPER, MURDERED ON CHRISTMAS EVE FOR A HANDFUL OF CRUMPLED DOLLAR BILLS.


"TELL THE SCHOOL-TEACHER, LEFT FOR DEAD IN A BLOOD-STAINED ALLEYWAY--FINALLY FORCED TO END HER OWN LIFE WHEN SHE COULD NO LONGER BEAR THE SHAME OF WHAT YOU DID TO HER.

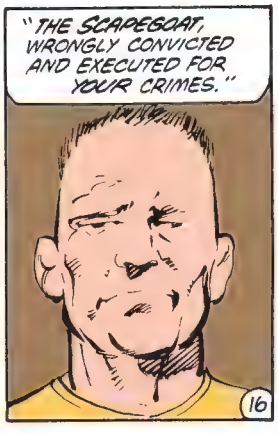
"THE CHILD CONSUMED BY FLAME, BECAUSE ONE AMONG YOU ENJOYED THE SIGHT OF BUILDINGS BURNING.

"THE POLICEMAN, GUNNED DOWN IN THE LINE OF DUTY, BECAUSE HE STOOD BETWEEN YOU AND ESCAPE.


"THE FARMER, WHOSE HOME YOU INVADED, AND WHO DIED IN A HAIL OF POLICE FIRE WHEN YOU TRIED TO SHOOT YOUR WAY TO FREEDOM.

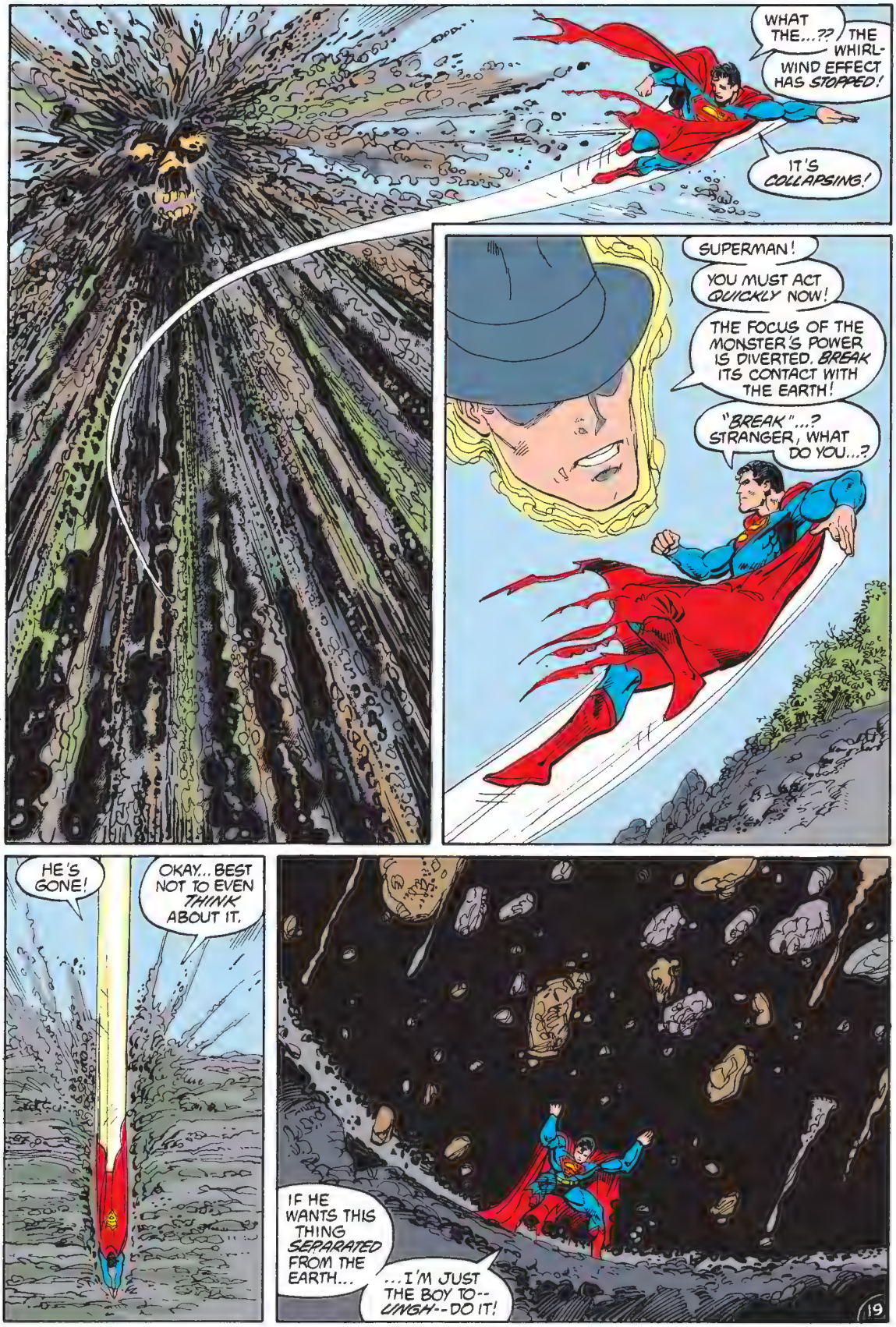

"THE JUDGE, EXPLODED IN HIS CAR BY YOUR VENGEFUL MACHINATIONS, BECAUSE HE HAD DELIVERED AGAINST YOU THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE LAW.

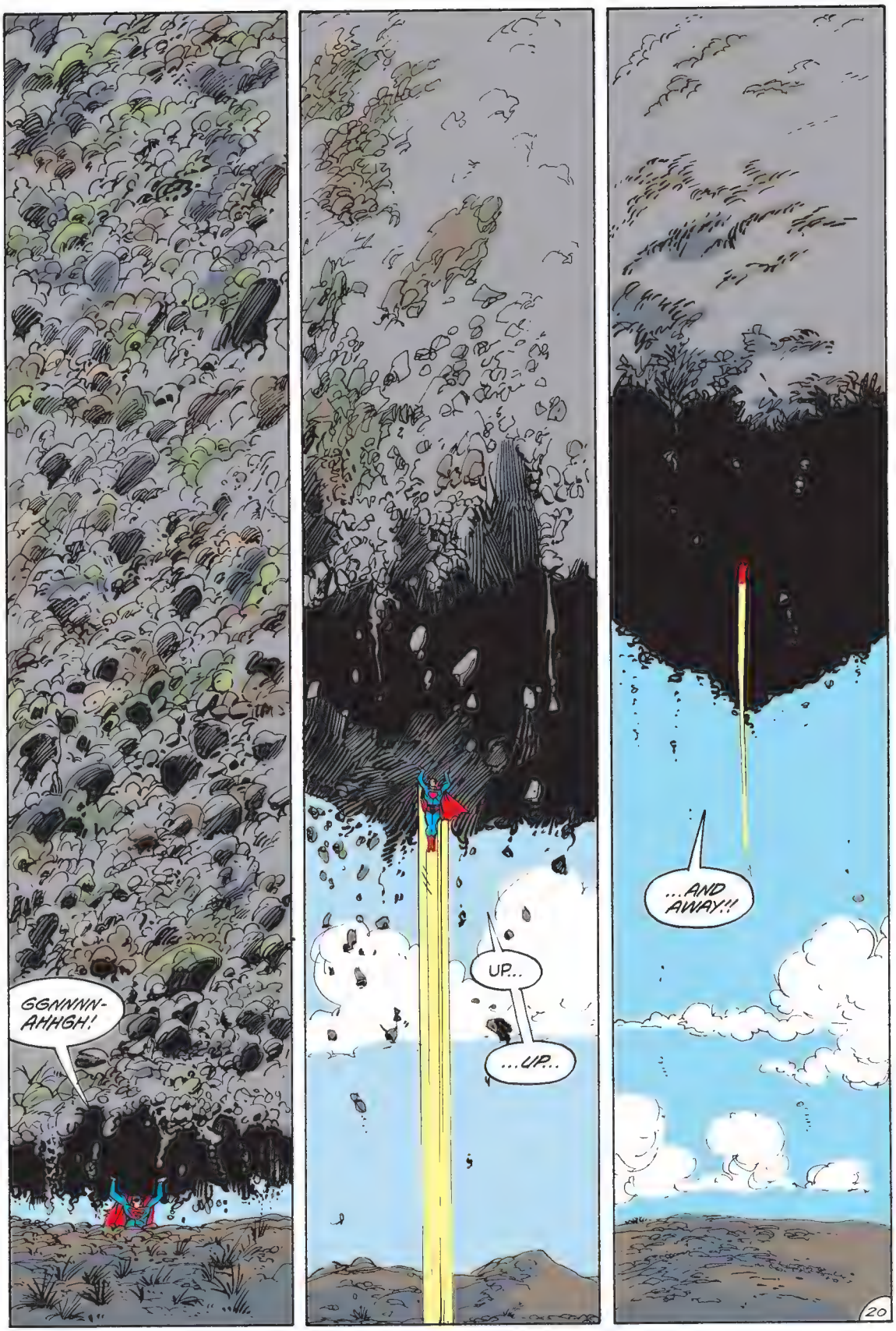
"THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER, RUN DOWN WHEN YOUR GETAWAY CAR JUMPED THE SIDEWALK.

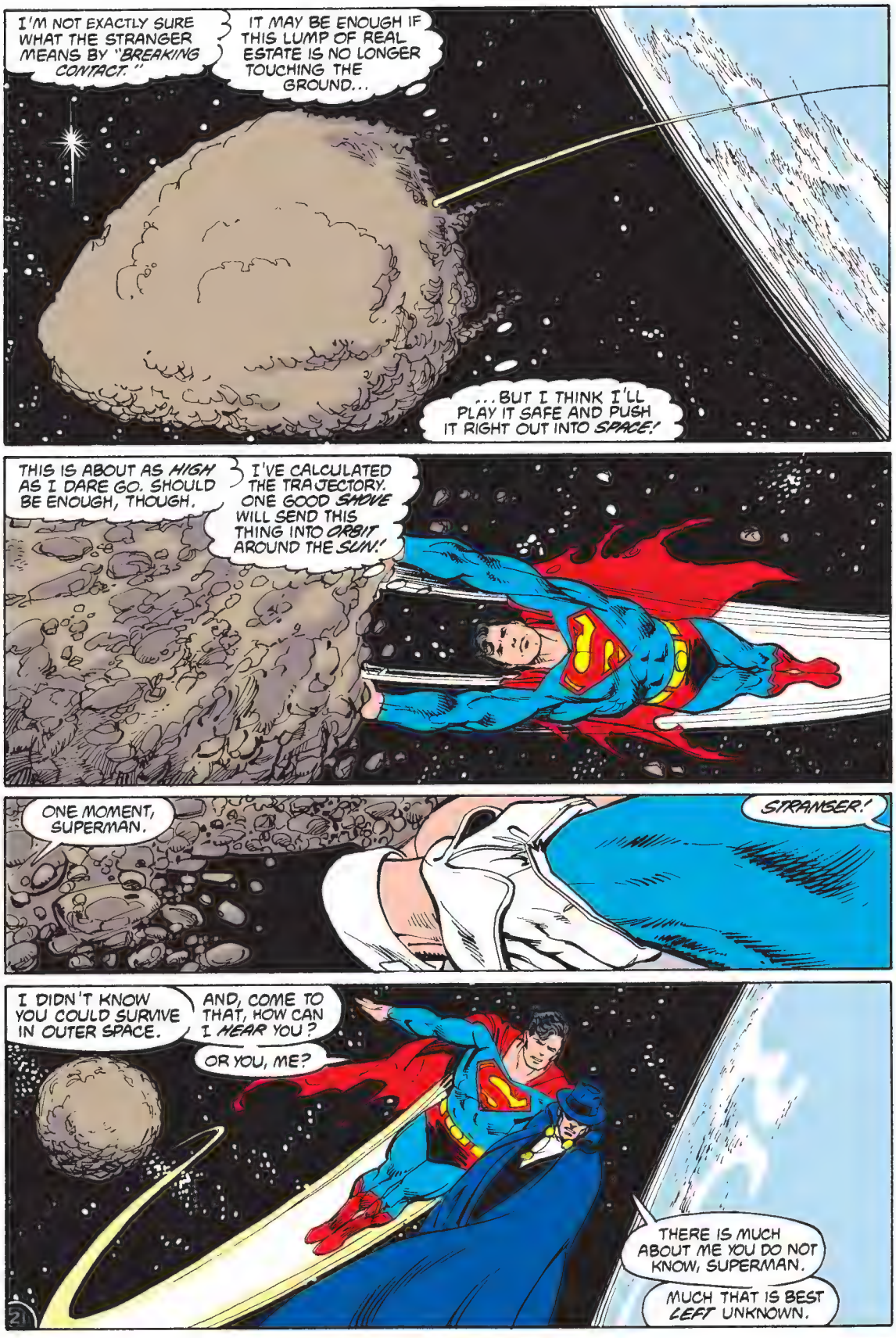

"THE SCAPEGOAT, WRONGLY CONVICTED AND EXECUTED FOR YOUR CRIMES."
16

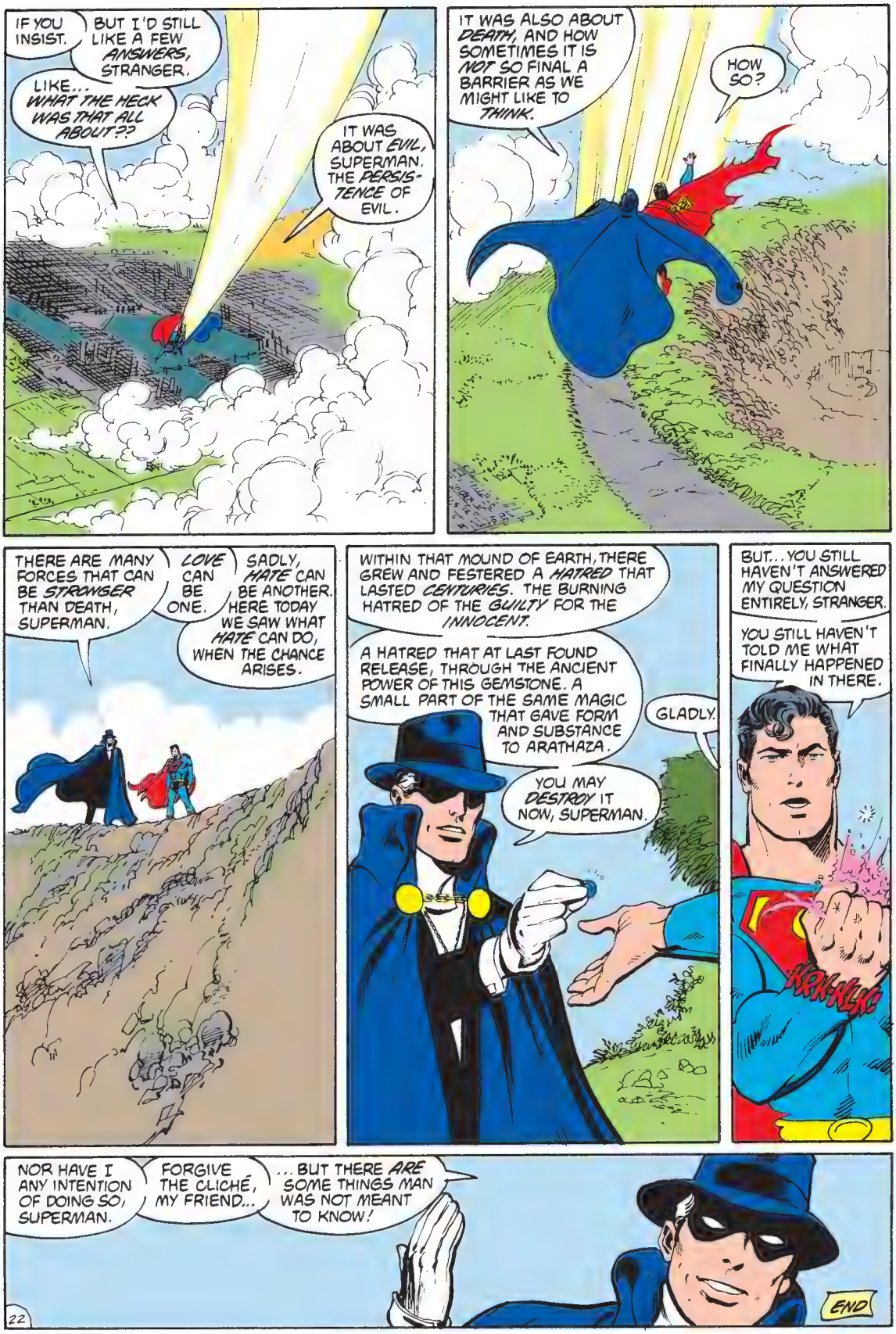
LIES!! LIES! YOU DEFEND YOURSELF WITH SHAM!
THESE ARE NOT OUR VICTIMS. WE ARE THEIRS!
THEY HAD THE MONEY, THE BEAUTY, THE POWER!
ALL FOR THEM, AND NONE FOR US! WHEN WE DESERVED IT ALL! AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!
BUT WE WON IN THE END!
WE TOOK WHAT WE SAW AS OURS!
YES. YOU TOOK WHAT OTHERS HAD EARNED. EARNED BY THE SWEAT OF THEIR LABORS. AND, AT THE LAST, YOU TOOK THEIR LIVES.
LIVES WHICH WERE NOT YOURS TO GIVE OR TAKE.
AND NOW, EVEN IN THIS FALSE HALF-LIFE YOU HAVE BEEN GRANTED BY PERVERSE FATE...
... STILL YOU CLING TO THE TWISTED WAY OF THINKING THAT BROUGHT YOU TO YOUR SORRY STATE.
YOU ARE EVIL TO THE CORE, DEAD MEN. AND LIKE YOUR WORDS, YOU ARE A LIE. THE TRUE CENTER OF YOUR POWER LIES ELSEWHERE.
LET THE SOURCE OF THAT POWER BE REVEALED.
LET IT BE EXPOSED FOR WHAT IT IS.
THERE! THE FLAWED REMNANT OF A WIZARD'S POWER.
THE SHERABITE STONE -- FOCUS OF EVIL -- CATALYST OF CORRUPTION.
BUT A THING POWERLESS UNTO ITSELF, WITHOUT THE EVIL OF MANKIND TO FEED ITS HUNGER.
17

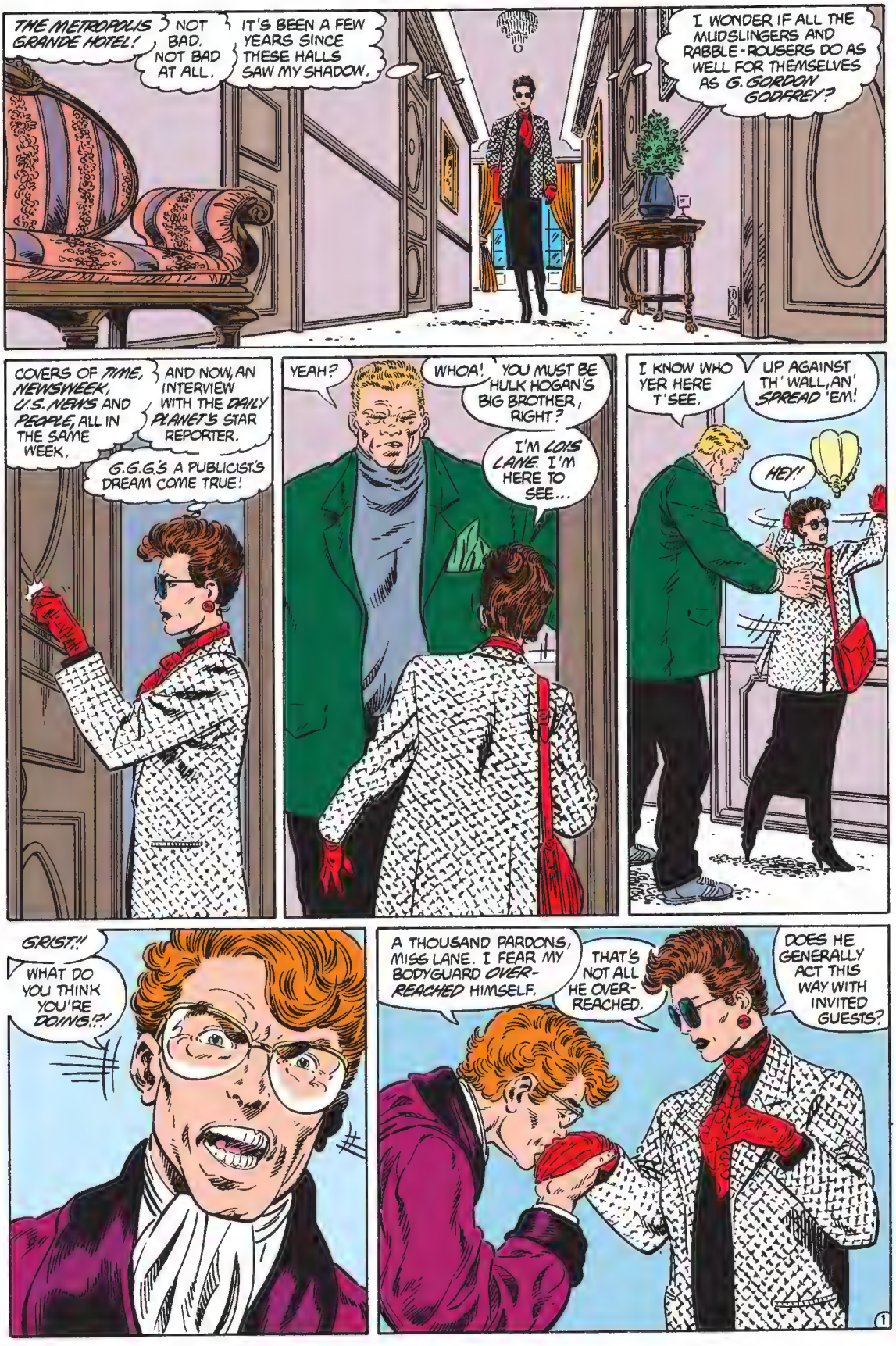
NO!
NO!
NOO!
NOO!!
NOO!!
YOU CANNOT TAKE OUR POWER!!
YOU WILL DIE FIRST!!
18

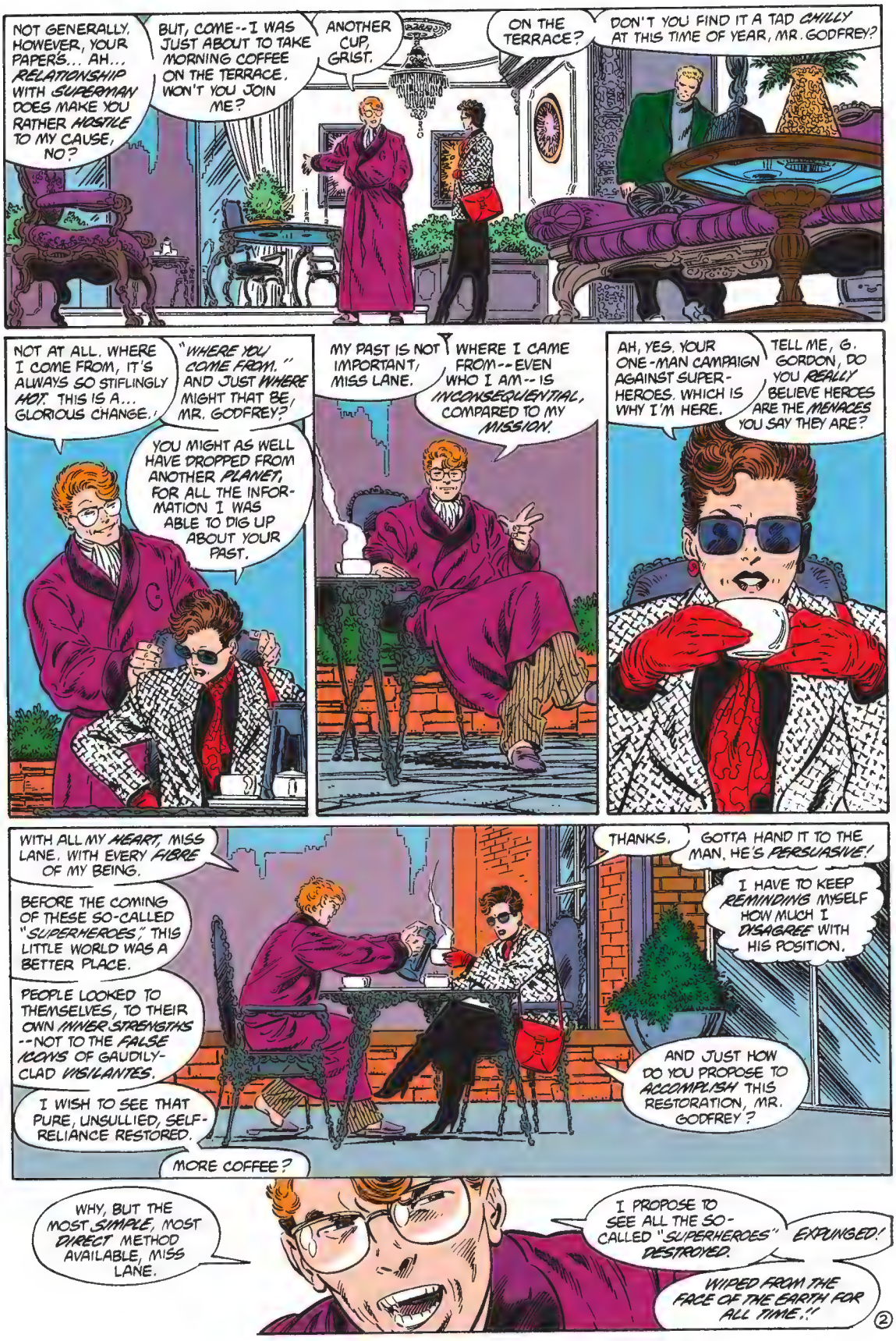

WHAT THE...??
THE WHIRL-WIND EFFECT HAS STOPPED!
IT'S COLLAPSING!
SUPERMAN!
YOU MUST ACT QUICKLY NOW!
THE FOCUS OF THE MONSTER'S POWER IS DIVERTED. BREAK ITS CONTACT WITH THE EARTH!
"BREAK"...? STRANGER, WHAT DO YOU...?
HE'S GONE!
OKAY... BEST NOT TO EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.
IF HE WANTS THIS THING SEPARATED FROM THE EARTH...
...I'M JUST THE BOY TO-- UNGH--DO IT!
19


GGNNNN-AHHGH!
UP...
...UP...
...AND AWAY!!
20


I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT THE STRANGER MEANS BY "BREAKING CONTACT."
IT MAY BE ENOUGH IF THIS LUMP OF REAL ESTATE IS NO LONGER TOUCHING THE GROUND...
...BUT I THINK I'LL PLAY IT SAFE AND PUSH IT RIGHT OUT INTO SPACE!
THIS IS ABOUT AS HIGH AS I DARE GO. SHOULD BE ENOUGH, THOUGH.
I'VE CALCULATED THE TRAJECTORY. ONE GOOD SHOVE WILL SEND THIS THING INTO ORBIT AROUND THE SUN!
ONE MOMENT, SUPERMAN.
STRANGER!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD SURVIVE IN OUTER SPACE.
AND, COME TO THAT, HOW CAN I HEAR YOU?
OR YOU, ME?
THERE IS MUCH ABOUT ME YOU DO NOT KNOW, SUPERMAN.
MUCH THAT IS BEST LEFT UNKNOWN.


IF YOU INSIST.
BUT I'D STILL LIKE A FEW ANSWERS, STRANGER.
LIKE... WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ALL ABOUT??
IT WAS ABOUT EVIL, SUPERMAN. THE PERSISTENCE OF EVIL.
IT WAS ALSO ABOUT DEATH, AND HOW SOMETIMES IT IS NOT SO FINAL A BARRIER AS WE MIGHT LIKE TO THINK.
HOW SO?
THERE ARE MANY FORCES THAT CAN BE STRONGER THAN DEATH, SUPERMAN.
LOVE CAN BE ONE.
SADLY, HATE CAN BE ANOTHER. HERE TODAY WE SAW WHAT HATE CAN DO, WHEN THE CHANCE ARISES.
WITHIN THAT MOUND OF EARTH, THERE GREW AND FESTERED A HATRED THAT LASTED CENTURIES. THE BURNING HATRED OF THE GUILTY FOR THE INNOCENT.
A HATRED THAT AT LAST FOUND RELEASE, THROUGH THE ANCIENT POWER OF THIS GEMSTONE. A SMALL PART OF THE SAME MAGIC THAT GAVE FORM AND SUBSTANCE TO ARATHAZA.
GLADLY.
YOU MAY DESTROY IT NOW, SUPERMAN.
BUT... YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION ENTIRELY, STRANGER.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHAT FINALLY HAPPENED IN THERE.
KRK-KLK
NOR HAVE I ANY INTENTION OF DOING SO, SUPERMAN.
FORGIVE THE CLICHÉ, MY FRIEND...
...BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS MAN WAS NOT MEANT TO KNOW!
END
22


THE METROPOLIS GRANDE HOTEL!
NOT BAD. NOT BAD AT ALL.
IT'S BEEN A FEW YEARS SINCE THESE HALLS SAW MY SHADOW.
I WONDER IF ALL THE MUDSLINGERS AND RABBLE-ROUSERS DO AS WELL FOR THEMSELVES AS G. GORDON GODFREY?
COVERS OF TIME, NEWSWEEK, U.S. NEWS AND PEOPLE, ALL IN THE SAME WEEK.
AND NOW, AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DAILY PLANET'S STAR REPORTER.
G.G.G.'S A PUBLICIST'S DREAM COME TRUE!
YEAH?
WHOA! YOU MUST BE HULK HOGAN'S BIG BROTHER, RIGHT?
I'M LOIS LANE. I'M HERE TO SEE...
I KNOW WHO YER HERE T'SEE.
UP AGAINST TH' WALL, AN' SPREAD 'EM!
HEY!
GRIST!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?!
A THOUSAND PARDONS, MISS LANE. I FEAR MY BODYGUARD OVER-REACHED HIMSELF.
THAT'S NOT ALL HE OVER-REACHED.
DOES HE GENERALLY ACT THIS WAY WITH INVITED GUESTS?
1


NOT GENERALLY, HOWEVER, YOUR PAPER'S... AH... RELATIONSHIP WITH SUPERMAN DOES MAKE YOU RATHER HOSTILE TO MY CAUSE, NO?
BUT, COME--I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TAKE MORNING COFFEE ON THE TERRACE, WON'T YOU JOIN ME?
ANOTHER CUP, GRIST.
ON THE TERRACE?
DON'T YOU FIND IT A TAD CHILLY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, MR. GODFREY?
NOT AT ALL. WHERE I COME FROM, IT'S ALWAYS SO STIFLINGLY HOT. THIS IS A... GLORIOUS CHANGE.
"WHERE YOU COME FROM." AND JUST WHERE MIGHT THAT BE, MR. GODFREY?
YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE DROPPED FROM ANOTHER PLANET, FOR ALL THE INFORMATION I WAS ABLE TO DIG UP ABOUT YOUR PAST.
MY PAST IS NOT IMPORTANT, MISS LANE.
WHERE I CAME FROM--EVEN WHO I AM--IS INCONSEQUENTIAL, COMPARED TO MY MISSION.
AH, YES. YOUR ONE-MAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST SUPER-HEROES. WHICH IS WHY I'M HERE.
TELL ME, G. GORDON, DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE HEROES ARE THE MENACES YOU SAY THEY ARE?
WITH ALL MY HEART, MISS LANE. WITH EVERY FIBRE OF MY BEING.
BEFORE THE COMING OF THESE SO-CALLED "SUPERHEROES," THIS LITTLE WORLD WAS A BETTER PLACE.
PEOPLE LOOKED TO THEMSELVES, TO THEIR OWN INNER STRENGTHS --NOT TO THE FALSE ICONS OF GAUDILY-CLAD VIGILANTES.
I WISH TO SEE THAT PURE, UNSULLIED, SELF-RELIANCE RESTORED.
MORE COFFEE?
THANKS.
GOTTA HAND IT TO THE MAN. HE'S PERSUASIVE!
I HAVE TO KEEP REMINDING MYSELF HOW MUCH I DISAGREE WITH HIS POSITION.
AND JUST HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS RESTORATION, MR. GODFREY?
WHY, BUT THE MOST SIMPLE, MOST DIRECT METHOD AVAILABLE, MISS LANE.
I PROPOSE TO SEE ALL THE SO-CALLED "SUPERHEROES" DESTROYED.
EXPUNGED!
WIPED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH FOR ALL TIME.!!
2

SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
LEGENDS OF THE DARKSIDE
JOHN BYRNE writer/penciller
TERRY AUSTIN inker
JOHN COSTANZA letterer
TOM ZIUKO colorist
ANDREW HELFER editor
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
FOR GOD'S SAKE, GET OUT OF THE WAY!!
WHAT THE...?!?
3

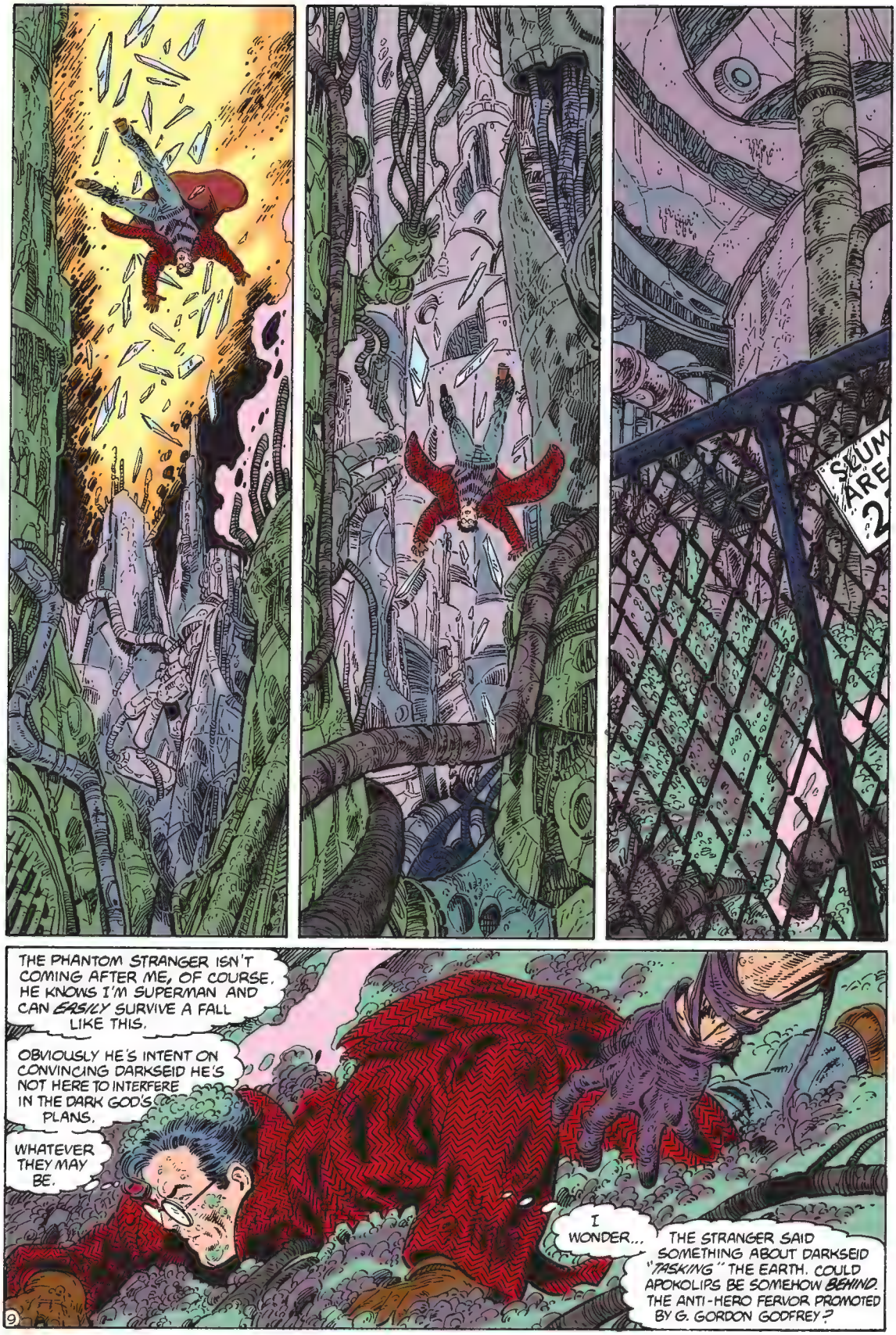
PLEASE!
EVERYONE STAY CLEAR OF ME!
I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE!
WHAT IN THE WORLD?!?
WHO IS THAT GUY?
WAIT A MINUTE! I KNOW HIM!
I SEEN HIS PITCHER IN TH' DAILY PLANET.
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT'S CLARK KENT!
BUT WHAT'S HE RUNNIN'...
... FROM...?
BUT... IF THAT'S CLARK KENT, AND THIS... THING'S CHASING HIM...
WHERE'S SUPERMAN?
YEAH!
KENT GETS ALL TH' SUPERMAN STORIES IN TH' PLANET.
I THOUGHT THEY WUZ BUDDIES...
A LOT CLOSER THAN "BUDDIES," FRIEND.
I AM SUPERMAN.
BUT THERE'RE A COUPLE OF GOOD REASONS WHY I CAN'T USE SUPERMAN TO GET OUT OF THIS.
ZONE
NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS A PRESIDENTIAL ORDER BANNING SUPERHERO ACTIVITY--
AT LEAST UNTIL G. GORDON GODFREY AND HIS FOLLOWERS ARE PUT OUT OF BUSINESS.
④

PLUS...
WHATEVER THIS THING IS, IT CLEARLY CAME AFTER CLARK KENT..
AND UNTIL I CAN FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND IT, I DARE NOT RISK REVEALING CLARK KENT HAS SUPERMAN'S POWERS.
BLAST! IT'S STILL WITH ME.
I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING IT'S PLAYING WITH ME.
THAT IT COULD SNAG ME ANY TIME IT WANTED TO.
WELL...
OKAY, I'LL PLAY ALONG.
FOR A WHILE.
I DON'T REALLY SEEM TO HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE.
NOW... WITH ANY KIND OF LUCK, I MAY BE ABLE TO LOSE IT IN THE MAZE OF SEWERS BENEATH THE STREETS OF METROPOLIS.
ASSUMING IT CAN EVEN COME AFTER ME, DOWN HERE.
UH HUH.
5

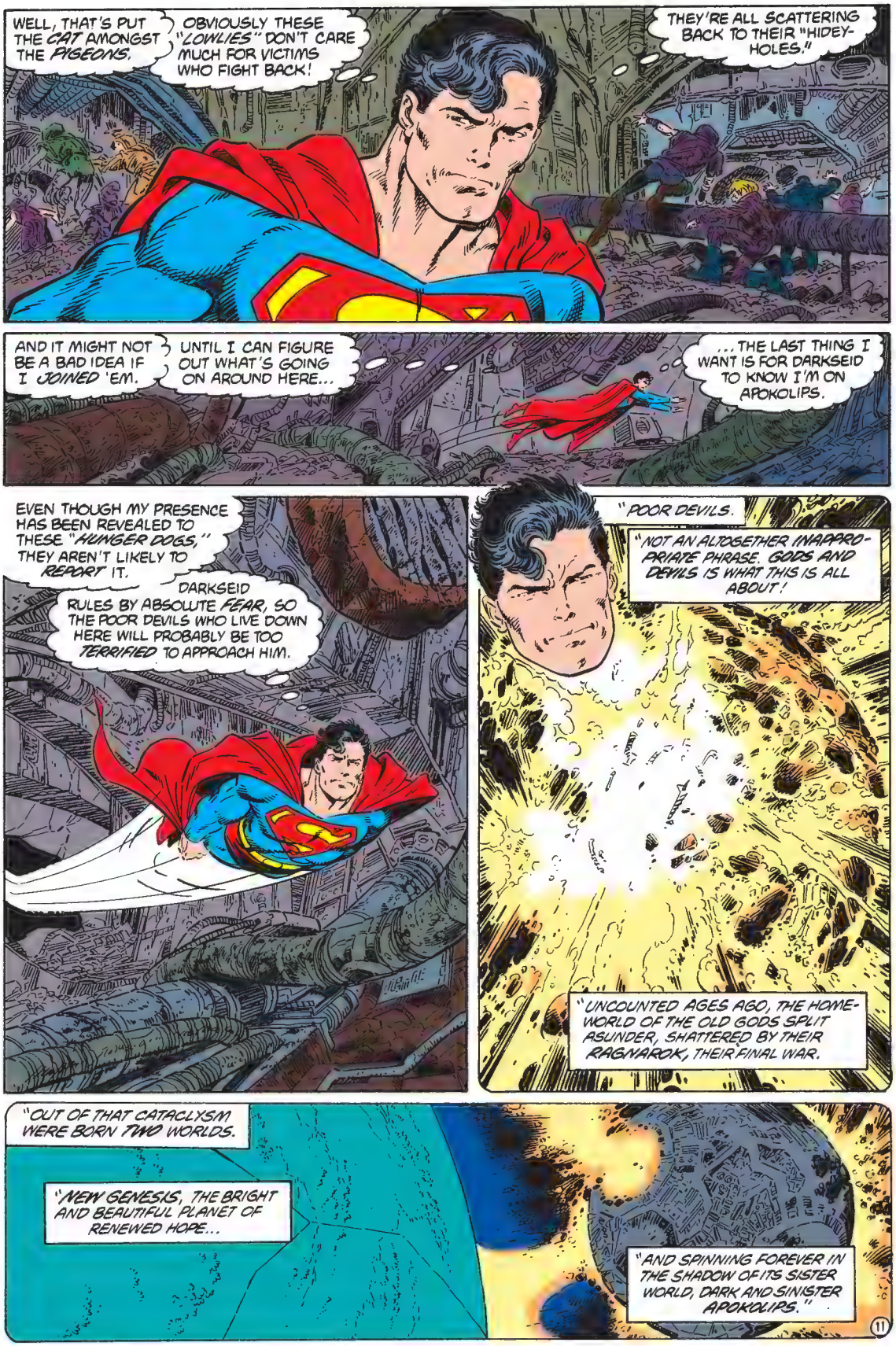
HUH! IT WENT RIGHT *THROUGH* MY COAT, WITHOUT HARMING THE MATERIAL.
SO...WHATEVER IT IS, APPARENTLY IT'S NOT A "*DEATH RAY.*"
UNLESS IT'S SOMEHOW KEYED TO MY PARTICULAR *ATOMIC STRUCTURE.*
BUT TO ACHIEVE THAT, THE PEOPLE BEHIND IT WOULD HAVE TO KNOW CLARK KENT IS AN *ALIEN* FROM THE PLANET *KRYPTON,* AND...
OH NO!
HEY!
LOOK OUT!
DAMN
6

WHAT'S THIS??
I SENT FORTH MY OMEGA BEAMS TO BRING SUPERMAN TO APOKOLIPS...
INSTEAD I AM DELIVERED THIS CRINGING MORTAL!
STRANGER, IS THIS YOUR DOING? I SENSE YOUR MEDDLING HAND IN THIS.
THEN YOUR SENSES LEAD YOU AWRY, DARKSEID. I AM HERE ONLY AS AN OBSERVER. YOU KNOW THAT.
7

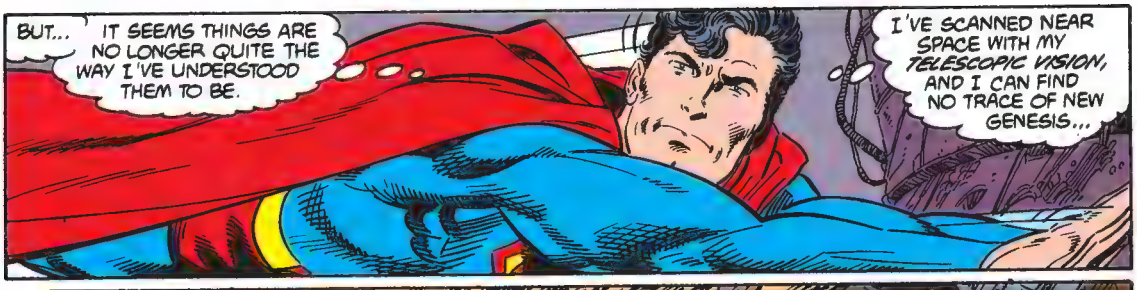
THE PHANTOM STRANGER! DARKSEID! WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON HERE?
NOW, LOOK... I'M CLARK KENT. I'M A WRITER FOR THE METROPOLIS DAILY PLANET.
I DEMAND TO KNOW WHERE I AM--AND HOW I GOT HERE!
"DEMAND"?
GREAT SCOTT! I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HIM MOVE! HOW CAN ANYONE SO HUGE BE SO FAST??
HE'S TRYING TO THROTTLE ME. DARKSEID DOESN'T REALIZE HE'S NETTED EXACTLY WHO HE WAS AFTER--AND UNTIL I CAN DISCOVER WHY HE WANTED SUPERMAN, I'D BETTER NOT LET HIM GUESS JUST YET!
NOW HEAR ME, EARTHLING. I KNOW NOT WHAT QUIRK OF FATE HAS BROUGHT YOU HERE INSTEAD OF THE ONE I SEEK, BUT KNOW THIS:
YOU ARE ON THE PLANET APOKOLIPS, AND ON APOKOLIPS THE SLIGHTEST WORD OF DARKSEID IS ABSOLUTE AND INESCAPABLE LAW!
HUUURRRGLE!!
LET... GO... CHOKING...
BE STILL AND OBEDIENT, AND YOU MAY YET SURVIVE THE HOURS THAT LIE AHEAD. RAISE YOUR VOICE TO ME AGAIN, AND I WILL CRUSH YOU LIKE AN EGG!
HAVE A CARE, DARKSEID.
THERE IS NO CALL TO VENT YOUR RAGE AGAINST THIS MAN. HE IS NO PART IN YOUR TASKING OF THE EARTH. SEND HIM HOME.
FOR ONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE NO MORE THAN AN OBSERVER OF THIS PLAY, YOU'VE HAD MORE THAN YOUR SHARE OF COMMENTARY, STRANGER.
PERHAPS IT'S TIME I TESTED THE VALIDITY OF YOUR CLAIM. IF OBSERVER IS WHAT YOU BE, OBSERVER YOU SHOULD REMAIN, EVEN WHEN I DO...
oooTHIS!!
8

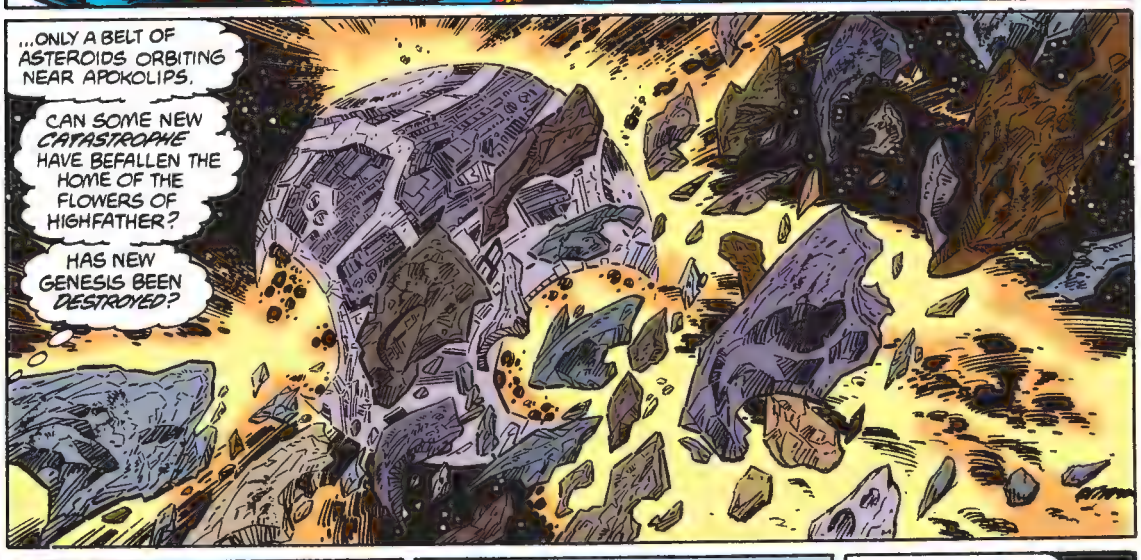

THE PHANTOM STRANGER ISN'T COMING AFTER ME, OF COURSE. HE KNOWS I'M SUPERMAN AND CAN *EASILY* SURVIVE A FALL LIKE THIS.
OBVIOUSLY HE'S INTENT ON CONVINCING DARKSEID HE'S NOT HERE TO INTERFERE IN THE DARK GOD'S PLANS.
WHATEVER THEY MAY BE.
I WONDER... THE STRANGER SAID SOMETHING ABOUT DARKSEID "*TASKING*" THE EARTH. COULD APOKOLIPS BE SOMEHOW *BEHIND* THE ANTI-HERO FERVOR PROMOTED BY G. GORDON GODFREY?
9

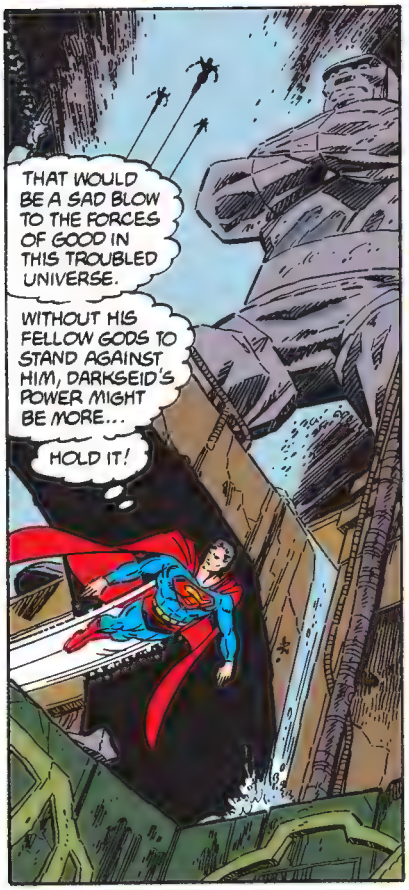
IT'S A LIVE ONE!
GRAB 'IM!
DON'T LET 'IM GET AWAY!
WHAT...?!?
HE'S A BIG ONE!
DON'T MATTER!
HOLD 'IM!
STRIP 'IM!
TAKE EVERYTHING YOU CAN!
I GOT HIS EYE-THINGS!
OHH-H! THEY MAKE THE WORLD ALL BLURRY AND BEAUTIFUL!
GIMME!
NO! GEDDAWAY FUM ME! THEY MINE!
MINE!
WHADELSE HE GOT?
GIMME SOMPIN!!
HEY! WHAT'S HE GOT ON UNDER-NEATH...??
10

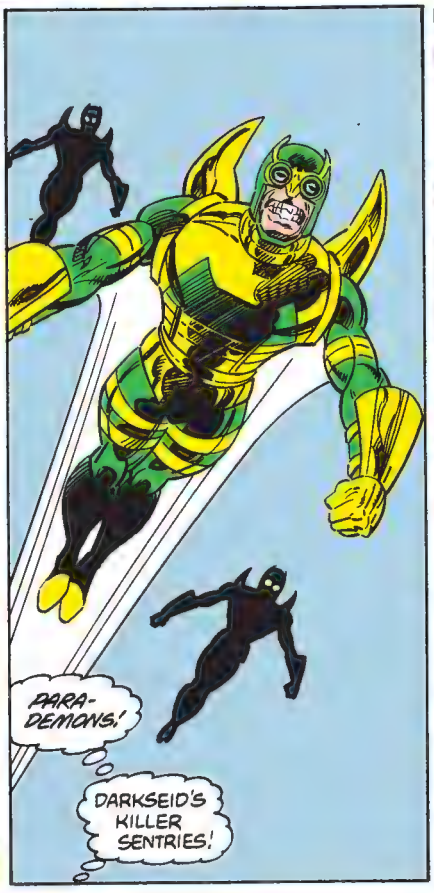

WELL, THAT'S PUT THE CAT AMONGST THE PIGEONS.
OBVIOUSLY THESE "LOWLIES" DON'T CARE MUCH FOR VICTIMS WHO FIGHT BACK!
THEY'RE ALL SCATTERING BACK TO THEIR "HIDEY-HOLES."
AND IT MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA IF I JOINED 'EM.
UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE...
...THE LAST THING I WANT IS FOR DARKSEID TO KNOW I'M ON APOKOLIPS.
EVEN THOUGH MY PRESENCE HAS BEEN REVEALED TO THESE "HUNGER DOGS," THEY AREN'T LIKELY TO REPORT IT.
DARKSEID RULES BY ABSOLUTE FEAR, SO THE POOR DEVILS WHO LIVE DOWN HERE WILL PROBABLY BE TOO TERRIFIED TO APPROACH HIM.
"POOR DEVILS.
"NOT AN ALTOGETHER INAPPROPRIATE PHRASE. GODS AND DEVILS IS WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
"UNCOUNTED AGES AGO, THE HOME-WORLD OF THE OLD GODS SPLIT ASUNDER, SHATTERED BY THEIR RAGNAROK, THEIR FINAL WAR.
"OUT OF THAT CATACLYSM WERE BORN TWO WORLDS.
"NEW GENESIS, THE BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL PLANET OF RENEWED HOPE...
"AND SPINNING FOREVER IN THE SHADOW OF ITS SISTER WORLD, DARK AND SINISTER APOKOLIPS."
11

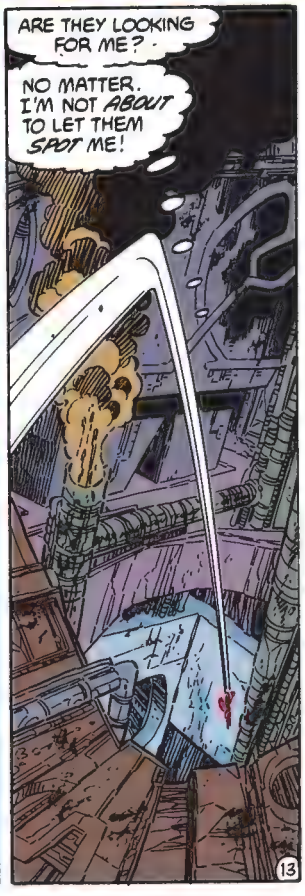
"EACH OF THOSE WORLDS BROUGHT FORTH A RACE OF NEW GODS.
"NEW GENESIS SPAWNED A PEOPLE OF PURE AND NOBLE ASPECT, LED BY THE WISE AND BENEVOLENT BEING KNOWN AS HIGHFATHER.
"WHILE THE FOUL FIRE-PITS OF APOKOLIPS NURTURED CREATURES DEDICATED ONLY TO DARKNESS AND DEATH...
"...SHAPED BY THE CRUEL AND MERCILESS DARKSEID."
12

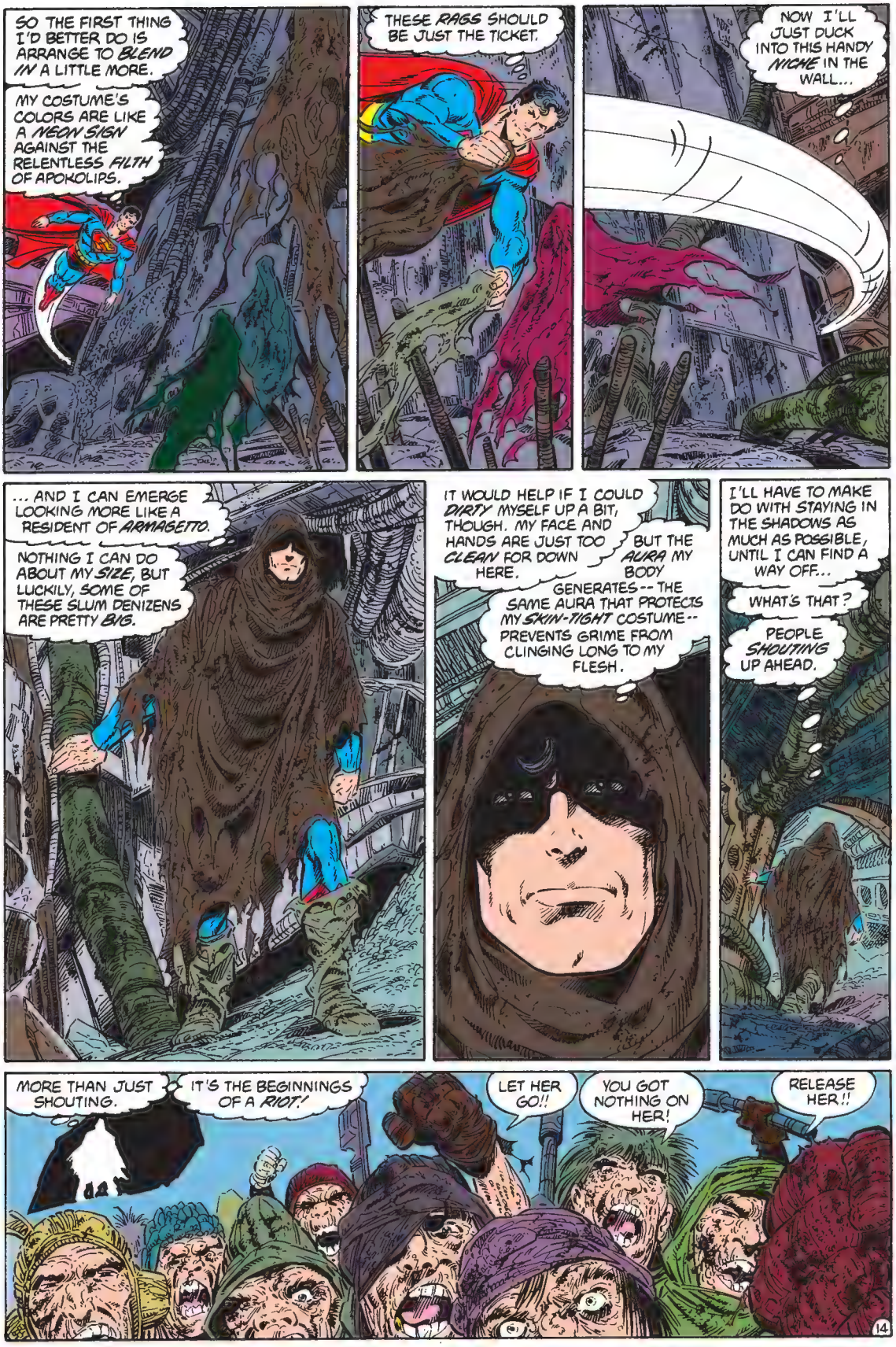

BUT...
IT SEEMS THINGS ARE NO LONGER QUITE THE WAY I'VE UNDERSTOOD THEM TO BE.
I'VE SCANNED NEAR SPACE WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION, AND I CAN FIND NO TRACE OF NEW GENESIS...


...ONLY A BELT OF ASTEROIDS ORBITING NEAR APOKOLIPS.
CAN SOME NEW CATASTROPHE HAVE BEFALLEN THE HOME OF THE FLOWERS OF HIGHFATHER?
HAS NEW GENESIS BEEN DESTROYED?


THAT WOULD BE A SAD BLOW TO THE FORCES OF GOOD IN THIS TROUBLED UNIVERSE.
WITHOUT HIS FELLOW GODS TO STAND AGAINST HIM, DARKSEID'S POWER MIGHT BE MORE...
HOLD IT!

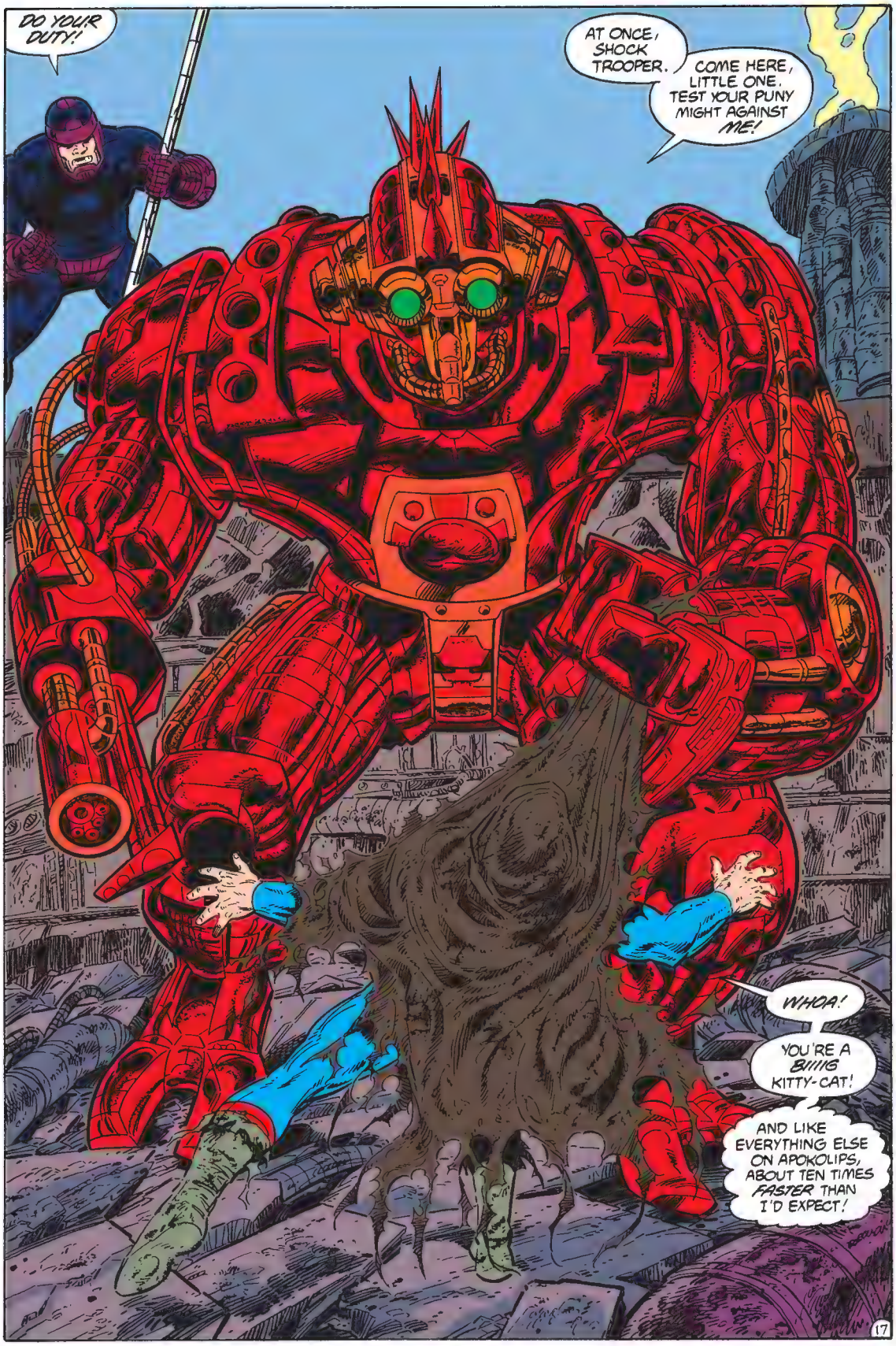

PARA-DEMONS!
DARKSEID'S KILLER SENTRIES!

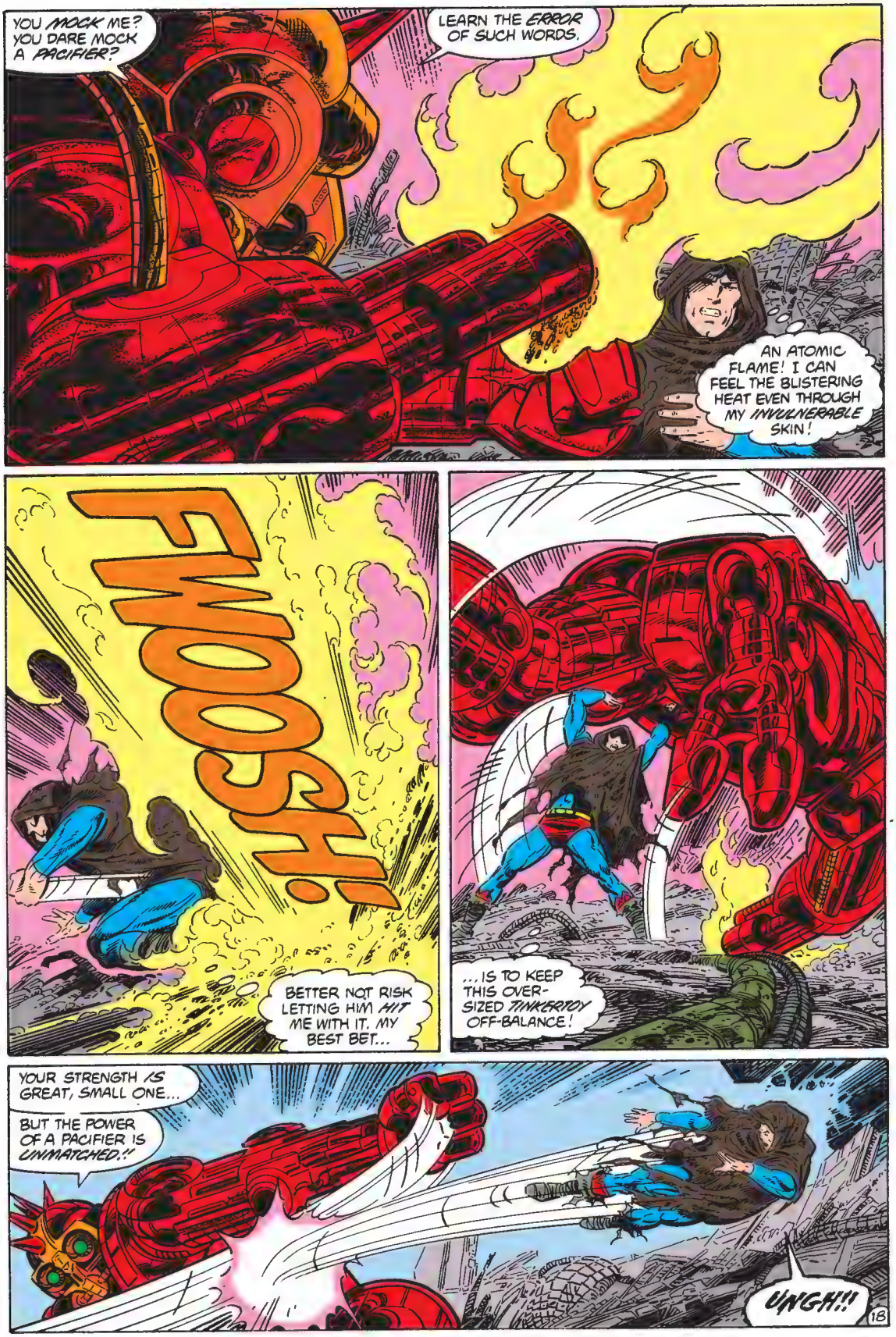

ARE THEY LOOKING FOR ME?
NO MATTER. I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET THEM SPOT ME!
13

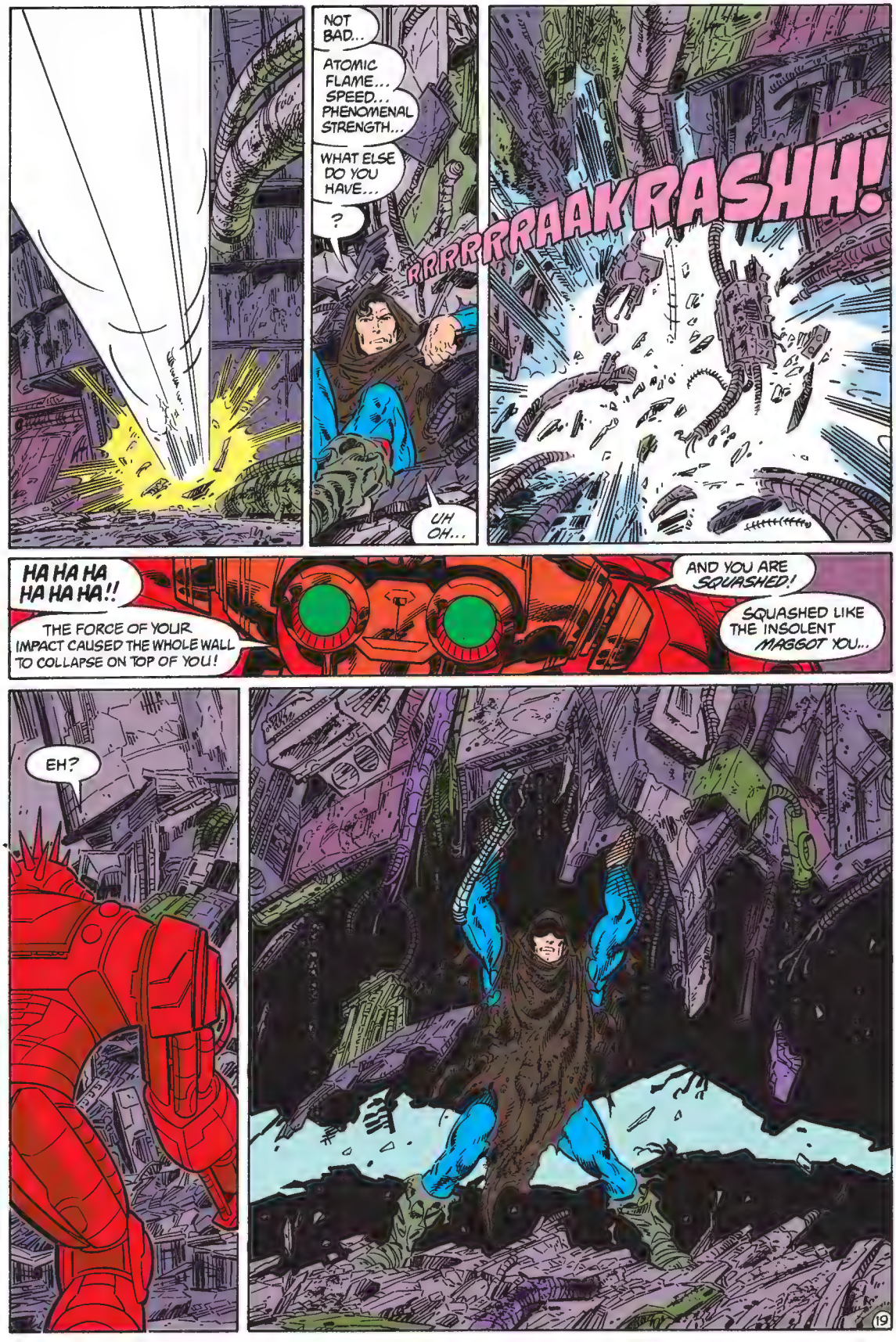

SO THE FIRST THING I'D BETTER DO IS ARRANGE TO BLEND IN A LITTLE MORE.
MY COSTUME'S COLORS ARE LIKE A NEON SIGN AGAINST THE RELENTLESS FILTH OF APOKOLIPS.
THESE RAGS SHOULD BE JUST THE TICKET.
NOW I'LL JUST DUCK INTO THIS HANDY NICHE IN THE WALL...
... AND I CAN EMERGE LOOKING MORE LIKE A RESIDENT OF ARMAGEDDO.
NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT MY SIZE, BUT LUCKILY, SOME OF THESE SLUM DENIZENS ARE PRETTY BIG.
IT WOULD HELP IF I COULD DIRTY MYSELF UP A BIT, THOUGH. MY FACE AND HANDS ARE JUST TOO CLEAN FOR DOWN HERE.
BUT THE AURA MY BODY GENERATES -- THE SAME AURA THAT PROTECTS MY SKIN-TIGHT COSTUME -- PREVENTS GRIME FROM CLINGING LONG TO MY FLESH.
I'LL HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH STAYING IN THE SHADOWS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, UNTIL I CAN FIND A WAY OFF...
WHAT'S THAT?
PEOPLE SHOUTING UP AHEAD.
MORE THAN JUST SHOUTING.
IT'S THE BEGINNINGS OF A RIOT!
LET HER GO!!
YOU GOT NOTHING ON HER!
RELEASE HER!!
14

KEEP YER TRAPS SHUT, YOU CLOTS OF SOILED RAGS!
THIS WOMAN PREACHED AGAINST THE WORD AND WILL OF GREAT DARKSEID!
THE ONLY PENALTY FOR SUCH AS HER IS TO BE HURLED INTO THE FIRE-PITS!
SLUM AREA 27
WELL NOW... HERE'S AN INTERESTING DILEMMA.
IF THAT WOMAN IS AGAINST DARKSEID, IT KIND OF PUTS US ON THE SAME SIDE.
BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH CHANCE OF MY BEING ABLE TO HELP HER WITHOUT REVEALING MYSELF.
OF COURSE, THAT'S NOT REALLY MUCH OF A DILEMMA AT ALL, IS IT?
A LIFE IS IN DANGER, AND PROTECTING LIFE--EVEN NON-HUMAN LIFE--IS WHAT BEING SUPERMAN IS ALL ABOUT.
SO-OO...
OKAY...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, CREEPS.
WHO--??
WHO-ZAT??
I DUNNO!
YOU EVER SEEN HIM BEFORE?
NO!
WHO IS HE??
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
A RAM AMONG THE SHEEP?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
KA
RUNK
15

NOW... ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF, OR ARE YOU GOING TO LET HER GO?
WELL, WELL!! AND WHAT HOLE DID YOU CRAWL OUT OF?
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW GRANNY'S RECRUITERS MISSED YOU.
HE-HE'S MAGNIFICENT!
WHERE COULD HE HAVE COME FROM?
CAN HE BE SOME PART OF THE PLAN?
NO MATTER!
THE SHOCK TROOPS ARE DISTRACTED.
I HAVE TO TAKE THE CHANCE TO SLIP AWAY, OR EVERYTHING I'VE ESTABLISHED WILL BE FORFEIT!
WHOEVER YOU ARE, GIANT, I DON'T THINK I'LL WASTE MY MEN FIGHTING YOU.
THERE ARE MORE EFFICIENT WAYS OF DEALING WITH SUCH AS YOU!
FWEEEEEEEEEEEE
WHAT...??
A HYPER-SONIC WHISTLE!
WHAT'S HE UP...
... TO...
PACIFIER!!
16


DO YOUR DUTY!
AT ONCE, SHOCK TROOPER.
COME HERE, LITTLE ONE. TEST YOUR PUNY MIGHT AGAINST ME!
WHOA!
YOU'RE A BIIIIG KITTY-CAT!
AND LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE ON APOKOLIPS, ABOUT TEN TIMES FASTER THAN I'D EXPECT!
17


YOU MOCK ME? YOU DARE MOCK A PACIFIER?
LEARN THE ERROR OF SUCH WORDS.
AN ATOMIC FLAME! I CAN FEEL THE BLISTERING HEAT EVEN THROUGH MY INVULNERABLE SKIN!
FWOOSH!
BETTER NOT RISK LETTING HIM HIT ME WITH IT. MY BEST BET...
...IS TO KEEP THIS OVER-SIZED TINKERTOY OFF-BALANCE!
YOUR STRENGTH IS GREAT, SMALL ONE...
BUT THE POWER OF A PACIFIER IS UNMATCHED!!
UNGH!!
18

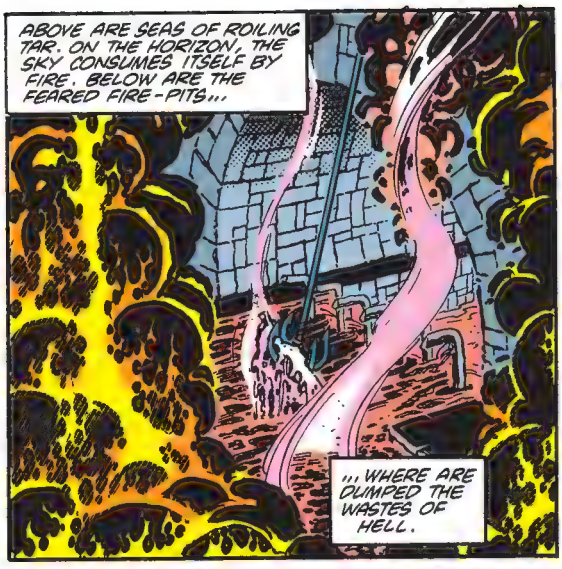

NOT BAD...
ATOMIC FLAME... SPEED... PHENOMENAL STRENGTH...
WHAT ELSE DO YOU HAVE...
?
UH OH...
RRRRRRAAK
RASHH!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
THE FORCE OF YOUR IMPACT CAUSED THE WHOLE WALL TO COLLAPSE ON TOP OF YOU!
AND YOU ARE SQUASHED!
SQUASHED LIKE THE INSOLENT MAGGOT YOU...
EH?
19

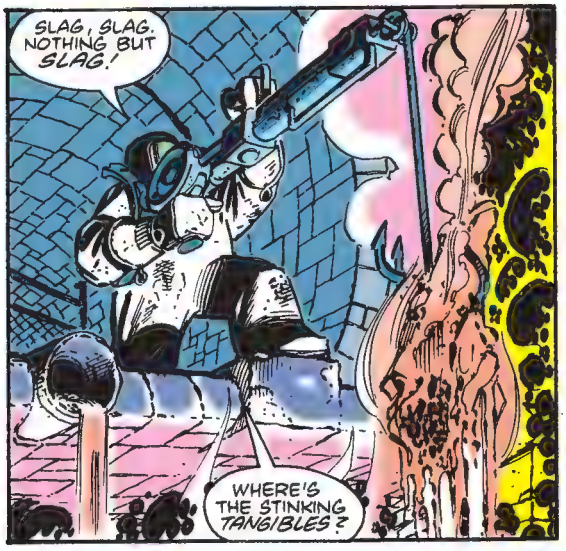
YOU... SURVIVE...??
THAT COLLAPSE WAS ENOUGH TO DESTROY A SQUADRON OF SHOCK TROOPERS!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, UGLY.
BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING DESTROYED JUST YET.
I HAVE A LOT OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS BACK ON EARTH...
AND ALTHOUGH I SUSPECT THAT'S NOT THE EASIEST PLACE TO GET TO FROM HERE...
I HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF GETTING HOME IN ONE PIECE!
KANG!
NOW... SINCE THIS SUIT YOU'RE WEARING SEEMS TO BE MADE OF SOME SUBSTANCE THAT BLOCKS MY X-RAY VISION..
LET'S OPEN IT UP AND HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT WE'RE REALLY...
... FIGHTING...
HISSSSSSSS
20

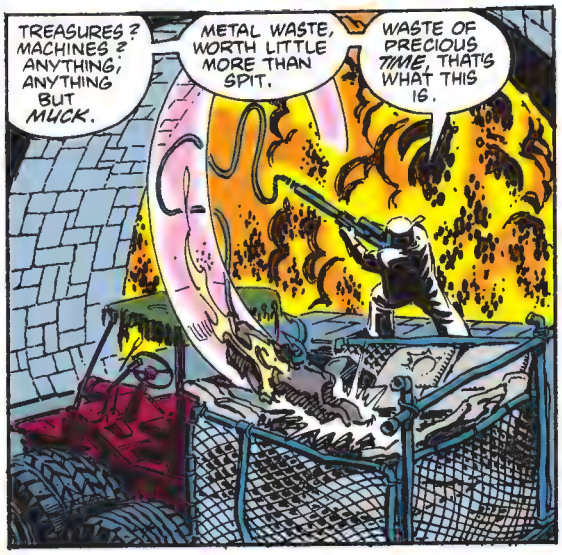
A GLOMMER!!
A GLOMMER!
THERE'S A GLOMMER INSIDE 'AT PACIFIER!
GET BACK!!
BLASTED THING'S SOME KIND OF...PSYCHIC PARASITE!
IT'S TAPPING INTO MY NERVOUS SYSTEM!
TAKING CONTROL OF MY MOTOR REFLEXES!
ALL MY MUSCLES ARE...SPASMING... LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO TEAR OUT OF MY BODY!
WE'RE... OFF THE GROUND!
IT'S MANIPULATING MY FLYING POWER... CARRYING US UP!
CAN'T STOP IT!
THE HEAT... AGAINST MY BACK...
THE THING'S DRIVING US BOTH TOWARDS ONE OF THE FIRE-PITS!
I'M NOT SURE EVEN MY INVULNERABLE BODY CAN SURVIVE IN THAT FURNACE!!
21

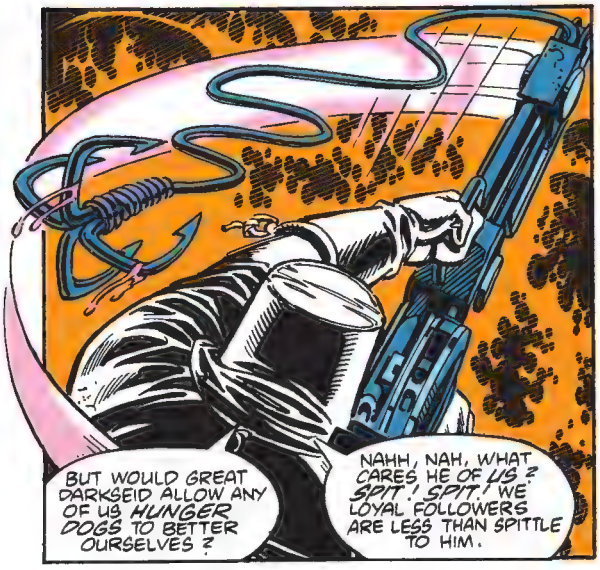
HAHA
HA
HA

IN THE VASTNESS OF SPACE, THERE IS A WORLD OF BLACKNESS. A DARK, BLOODIED SCAR WHOSE NAME IS ONLY WHISPERED.
FOR NONE IS BRAVE ENOUGH TO SHOUT OUT-- APOKOLIPS!


ABOVE ARE SEAS OF ROILING TAR. ON THE HORIZON, THE SKY CONSUMES ITSELF BY FIRE. BELOW ARE THE FEARED FIRE-PITS...
...WHERE ARE DUMPED THE WASTES OF HELL.

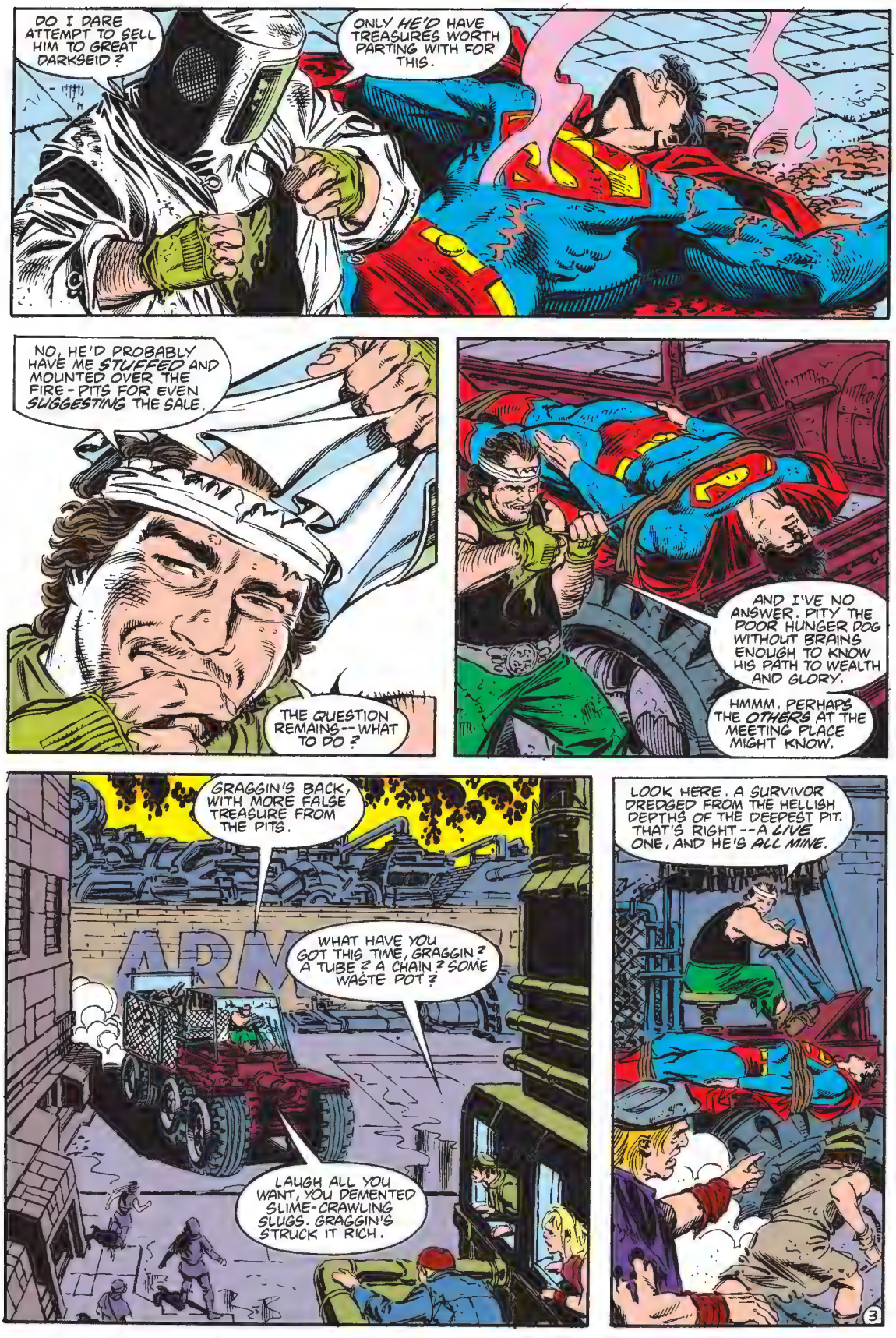

SLAG, SLAG. NOTHING BUT SLAG!
WHERE'S THE STINKING TANGIBLES?


TREASURES? MACHINES? ANYTHING, ANYTHING BUT MUCK.
METAL WASTE, WORTH LITTLE MORE THAN SPIT.
WASTE OF PRECIOUS TIME, THAT'S WHAT THIS IS.


BUT WOULD GREAT DARKSEID ALLOW ANY OF US HUNGER DOGS TO BETTER OURSELVES?
NAHH, NAH, WHAT CARES HE OF US? SPIT! SPIT! WE LOYAL FOLLOWERS ARE LESS THAN SPITTLE TO HIM.

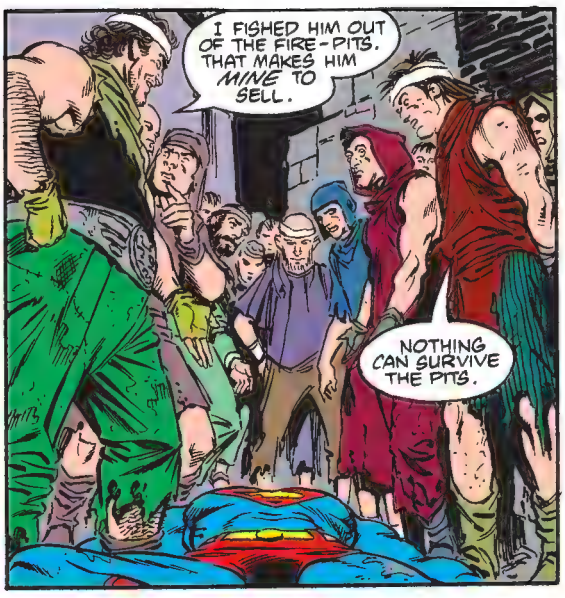
EH? SOMETHING WEIGHTY TUGS AT MY LINE.
CLOTH? AND BLOOD RED, TOO.
1

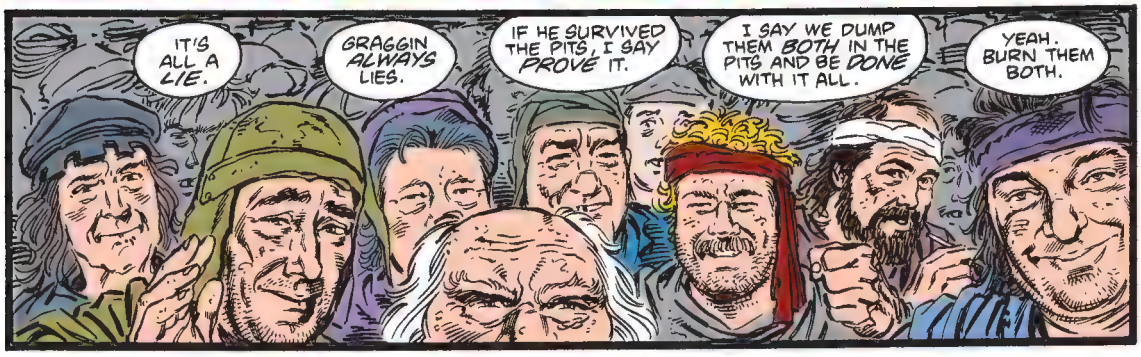
FROM THE DREGS...
THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
A MAN ? AND HE'S BREATHING?
HE SURVIVED THE FIRE-PITS ? BY THE STENCH-SOAKED SCUM OF APOKOLIPS-- THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
ONLY THAT ODIOUS NEW GOD ORION HAS EVER SURVIVED BEFORE.
WHICH MAKES THIS SOME SORT OF MIRACLE.
HOW MUCH, THEN, CAN I GET FOR HIM, EH ?
MARV WOLFMAN WRITER
JERRY ORDWAY ARTIST/CO-PLOTTER
JOHN BYRNE CO-PLOTTER
ALBERT DE GUZMAN LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO COLORIST
ANDREW HELFER EDITOR
2

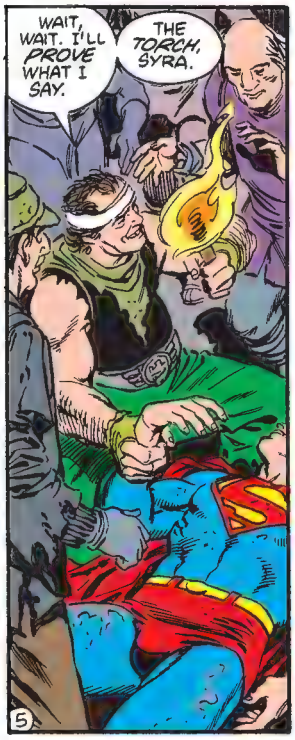

DO I DARE ATTEMPT TO SELL HIM TO GREAT DARKSEID?
ONLY HE'D HAVE TREASURES WORTH PARTING WITH FOR THIS.
NO, HE'D PROBABLY HAVE ME STUFFED AND MOUNTED OVER THE FIRE-PITS FOR EVEN SUGGESTING THE SALE.
THE QUESTION REMAINS--WHAT TO DO?
AND I'VE NO ANSWER. PITY THE POOR HUNGER DOG WITHOUT BRAINS ENOUGH TO KNOW HIS PATH TO WEALTH AND GLORY.
HMMM. PERHAPS THE OTHERS AT THE MEETING PLACE MIGHT KNOW.
GRAGGIN'S BACK, WITH MORE FALSE TREASURE FROM THE PITS.
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THIS TIME, GRAGGIN? A TUBE? A CHAIN? SOME WASTE POT?
LAUGH ALL YOU WANT, YOU DEMENTED SLIME-CRAWLING SLUGS. GRAGGIN'S STRUCK IT RICH.
LOOK HERE. A SURVIVOR DREDGED FROM THE HELLISH DEPTHS OF THE DEEPEST PIT. THAT'S RIGHT--A LIVE ONE, AND HE'S ALL MINE.
3

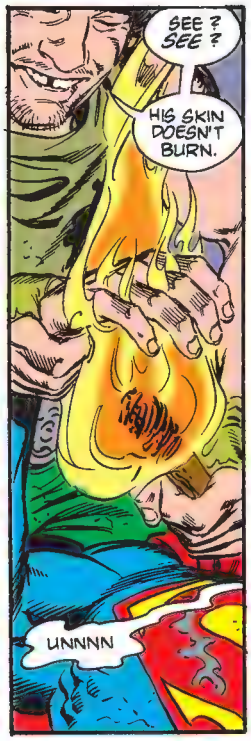
JOO HEAR WHA OL' GRAGS SAID HE FOUND? A SURVIVOR. A LIVIN' CORPSE NOT EVEN SCORCHED BY THE FLAMES.
SLUM AREA 4
A HUMAN... TOO CLEAN TO BE A HUNGER DOG, TOO WELL-FED TO BE A DEMON.
PERHAPS FROM NEW GENESIS? A NEW GOD?
HERE? IN ARMAGETTO? THE GODS AREN'T HALF THE FOOLS WE HUNGER DOGS ARE.
SPREAD THE WORD--A SURVIVOR WAS FOUND.
IMPOSSIBLE. THE FLAMES BURN ALL FLESH.
EVEN AS THE HEAT DESTROYS THE SOUL.
YOU HEARD THE WORD... GO WITH SPEED AND TELL AMAZING GRACE THE TALES WE HEAR.
BUT FIRST DEMAND CASH FOR OUR SECRET. THAT SHE-WITCH CAN CERTAINLY AFFORD TO BE GENEROUS.
THE MAGGOT WANTED MONEY FOR TALES SHOUTED THROUGH THE STREETS. I, OF COURSE, GOT RID OF HIM.
GRACE, DID YOU HEAR WHAT MANGAL HAS SAID? A HUMAN SURVIVED THE PIT?
I HEARD HIS GIBBERISH, BUT I HAD ALREADY KNOWN THE FACTS. LEAVE ME NOW...
...I MUST THINK.
4

LOOK! GRAGGIN SPOKE THE TRUTH.
BAH! THAT SLIME-SLOBBERING INSECT COULDN'T SPEAK THE TRUTH IF HIS MOTHER'S LIFE WERE AT STAKE...
...EVEN IF HE HAD A MOTHER.


I FISHED HIM OUT OF THE FIRE-PITS. THAT MAKES HIM MINE TO SELL.
NOTHING CAN SURVIVE THE PITS.

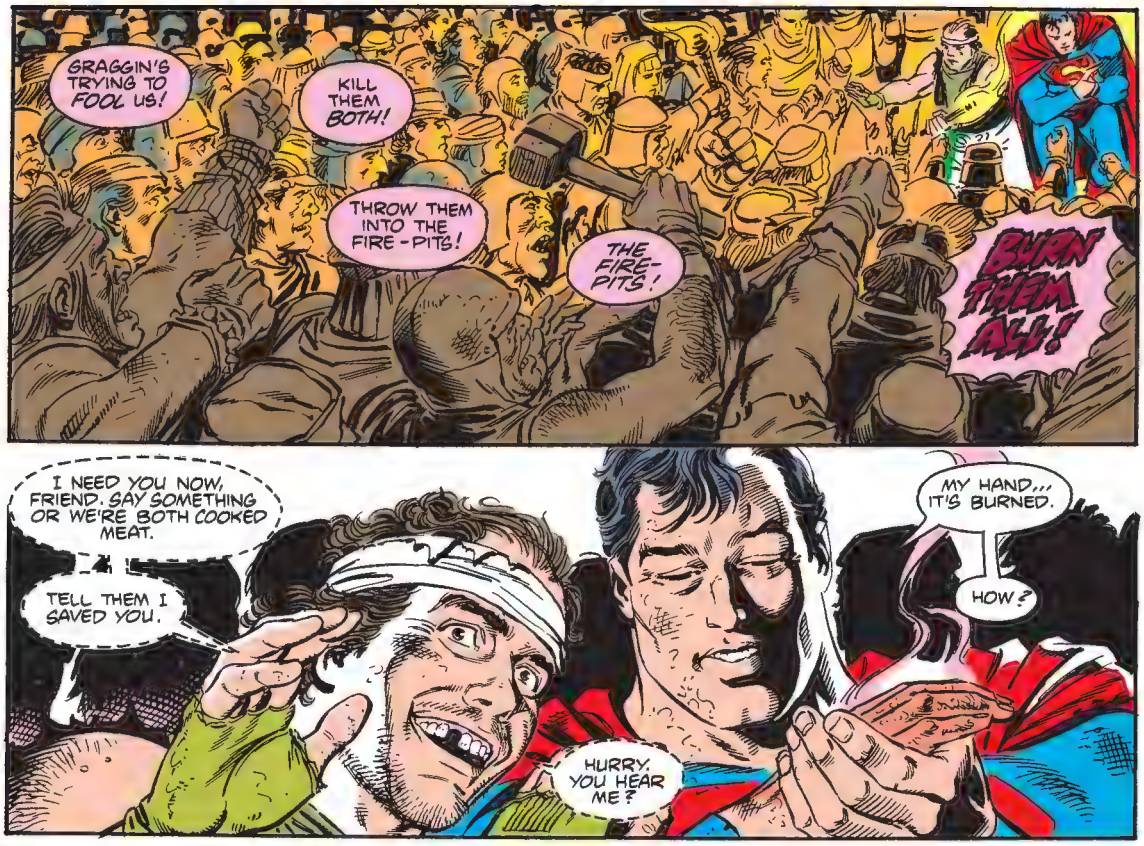

IT'S ALL A LIE.
GRAGGIN ALWAYS LIES.
IF HE SURVIVED THE PITS, I SAY PROVE IT.
I SAY WE DUMP THEM BOTH IN THE PITS AND BE DONE WITH IT ALL.
YEAH. BURN THEM BOTH.


WAIT, WAIT. I'LL PROVE WHAT I SAY.
THE TORCH, SYRA.
5


SEE? SEE?
HIS SKIN DOESN'T BURN.
UNNNN

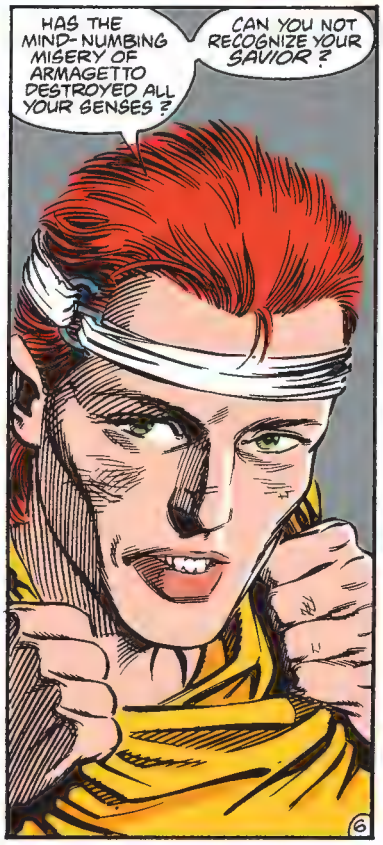
WHAT DO YOU PITIFUL LITTLE BELLY-CRAWLING WORMS THINK OF ME NOW, EH?
WHAT? MY HAND!

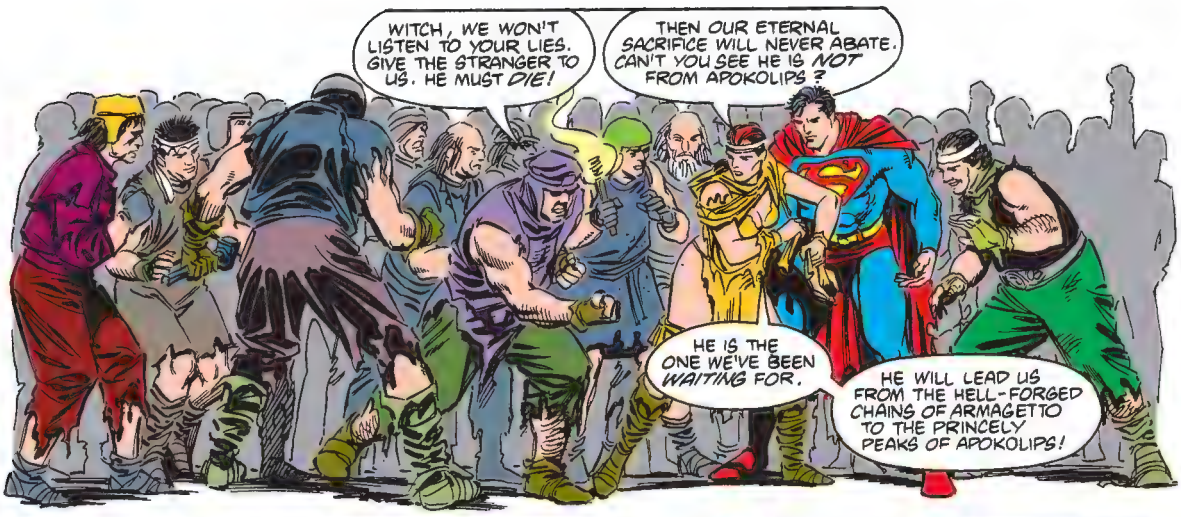
THE DEMON'S ALIVE?
HOLD STILL, MAN, I WASN'T FINISHED SETTING YOU AFIRE.
MY HAND! MY HAND!


GRAGGIN'S TRYING TO FOOL US!
KILL THEM BOTH!
THROW THEM INTO THE FIRE-PITS!
THE FIRE-PITS!
BURN THEM ALL!
I NEED YOU NOW, FRIEND. SAY SOMETHING OR WE'RE BOTH COOKED MEAT.
TELL THEM I SAVED YOU.
HURRY. YOU HEAR ME?
MY HAND... IT'S BURNED.
HOW?

TAKE THEM NOW!
STOP!

STAND ASIDE, YOU MINDLESS RABBLE.
IT'S AMAZING GRACE.
WHY IS SHE HERE?

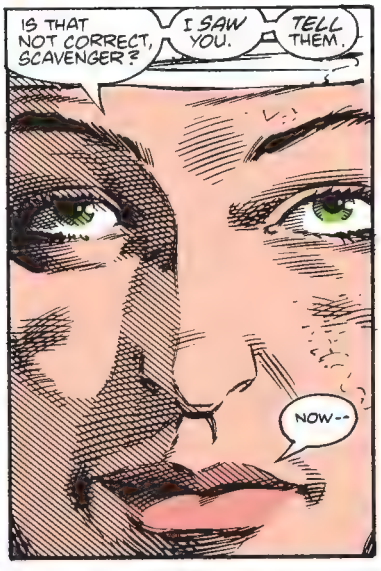

HAS THE MIND-NUMBING MISERY OF ARMAGETTO DESTROYED ALL YOUR SENSES?
CAN YOU NOT RECOGNIZE YOUR SAVIOR?
6


WITCH, WE WON'T LISTEN TO YOUR LIES. GIVE THE STRANGER TO US. HE MUST DIE!
THEN OUR ETERNAL SACRIFICE WILL NEVER ABATE. CAN'T YOU SEE HE IS NOT FROM APOKOLIPS?
HE IS THE ONE WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
HE WILL LEAD US FROM THE HELL-FORGED CHAINS OF ARMAGETTO TO THE PRINCELY PEAKS OF APOKOLIPS!

NO. HE'LL HARM US FIRST!
OR GREAT DARKSEID WILL PUNISH US FOR HIDING HIM!
HE IS A DEVIL SENT TO DESTROY US!

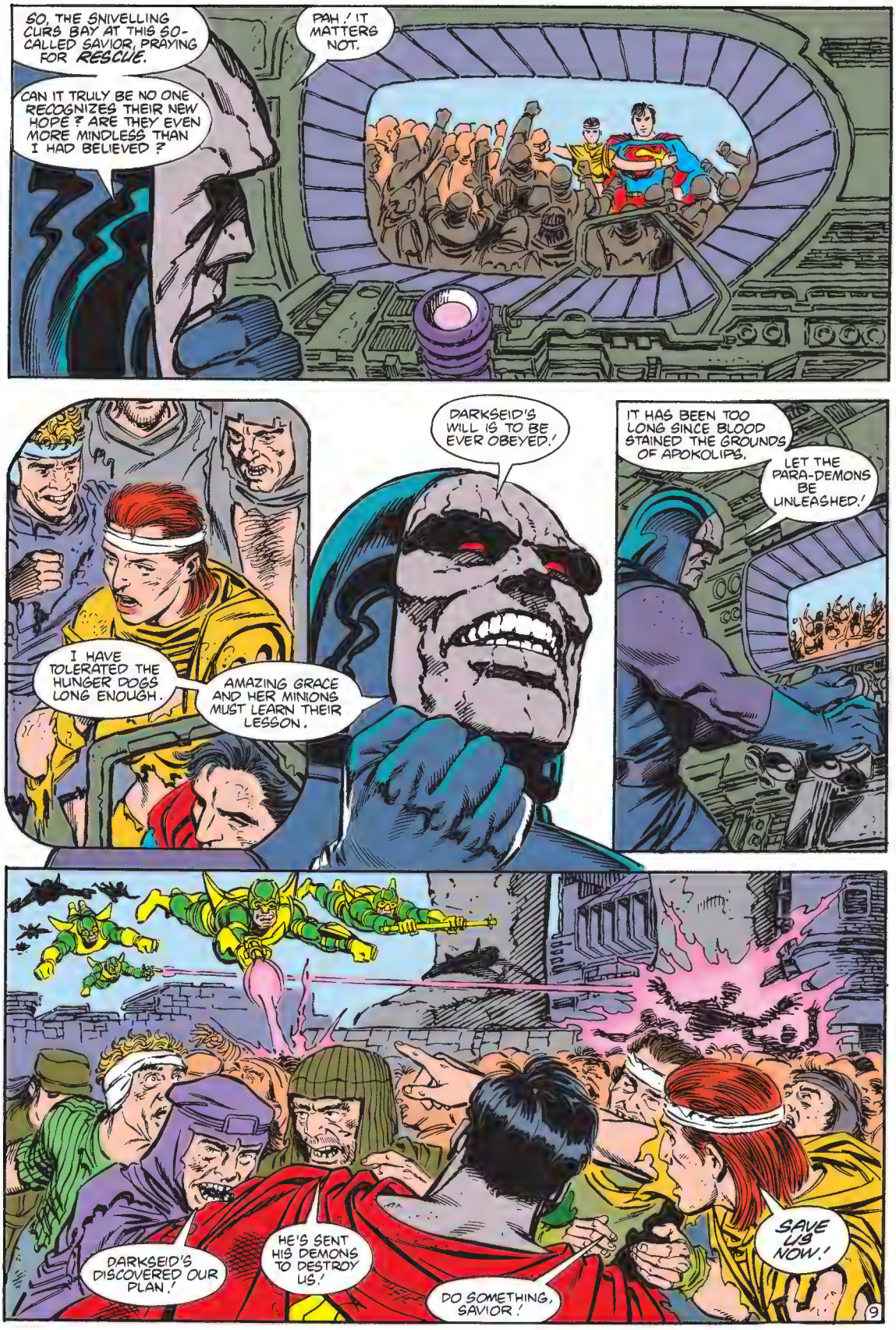
THIS ONE IS NO AGENT OF LORD DARKSEID.
NO, WHAT GRAGGIN SAID IS TRUE. I SAW THE SCAVENGER PLUCK HIM FROM THE FLAMES.

YOU DID?
WHY IS THE WITCH LYING? SHE WANTS SOMETHING FROM ME... I SHOULD MAKE HER PAY FOR AGREEING...


IS THAT NOT CORRECT, SCAVENGER?
I SAW YOU.
TELL THEM.
NOW--

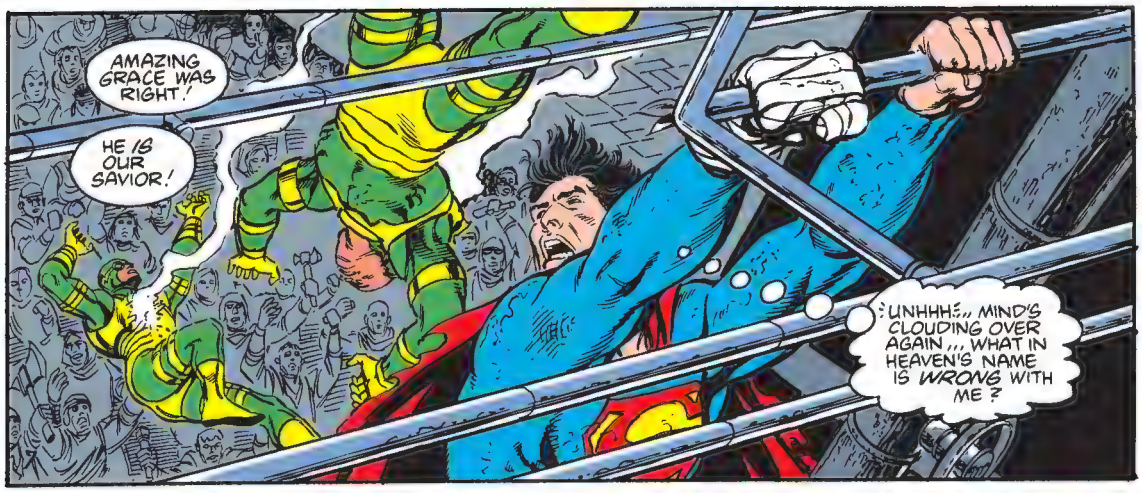
I... I... UHHH...
YES... YES. SHE WAS THERE.
7

IF HE IS OUR SAVIOR, WHERE IS HE FROM?
NEW GENESIS WAS DESTROYED!
HE IS NOT ONE OF THE NEW GODS... BUT HE WILL AID US IN OUR BATTLE AGAINST DARKSEID THE DAMNED.
LISTEN TO ME, BRAINLESS RABBLE-- AT LAST WE HOPELESS HAVE HOPE. WE CAN RISE FROM THE MIRE.
THIS STRANGER... THIS MAN... THIS SUPER MAN-- WILL LEAD US TO VICTORY.
HE IS THE SAVIOR!
HE IS THE SAVIOR! THE SAVIOR! THE SAVIOR!
SHOW US THE WAY, SAVIOR, AND WE SHALL FOLLOW YOU.
WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING THIS TIME FOR EONS.
DARKSEID SHALL BE NO MORE!
THE HUNGER DOGS WILL BE VICTORIOUS!!
8


SO, THE SNIVELLING CURS BAY AT THIS SO-CALLED SAVIOR, PRAYING FOR RESCUE.
CAN IT TRULY BE NO ONE RECOGNIZES THEIR NEW HOPE? ARE THEY EVEN MORE MINDLESS THAN I HAD BELIEVED?
PAH! IT MATTERS NOT.
DARKSEID'S WILL IS TO BE EVER OBEYED!
I HAVE TOLERATED THE HUNGER DOGS LONG ENOUGH.
AMAZING GRACE AND HER MINIONS MUST LEARN THEIR LESSON.
IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE BLOOD STAINED THE GROUNDS OF APOKOLIPS.
LET THE PARA-DEMONS BE UNLEASHED!
DARKSEID'S DISCOVERED OUR PLAN!
HE'S SENT HIS DEMONS TO DESTROY US!
DO SOMETHING, SAVIOR!
SAVE US NOW!
9

YES, SAVIOR--
--DO SOMETHING!
MY MIND'S SO MUDDLED...
...HARD TO THINK STRAIGHT...
...BUT I CERTAINLY KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.
PAL--
--YOU'RE ABOUT TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS.
IF I EASE MY GRIP, YOU'LL DO AS I SAY?
AKKKK
AKKKKK
FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE THAT WAS A "YES."
GET READY FOR A LITTLE TORPEDO ACTION!
THERE... PERFECT!
I HEAR SOMEONE BEHIND ME. SOME WEAPON IS BEING PRIMED.
NO PROBLEM...
10

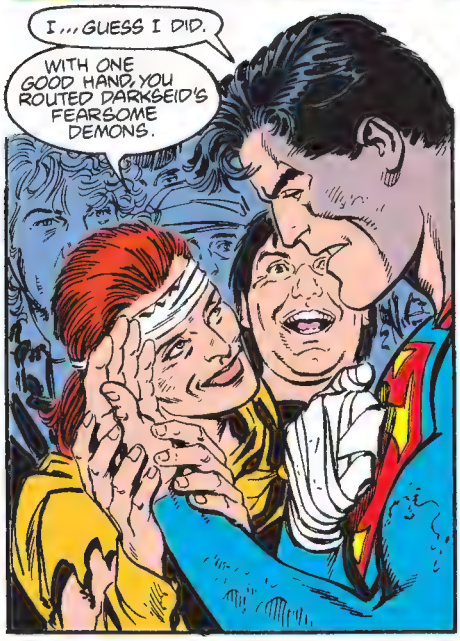
STRANGE, I FEEL MORE CLEAR-HEADED IN THE AIR THAN I DID ON THE GROUND!
STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...
...NOT THAT I NEED TO IN ORDER TO TAKE SIDES!
C'MON, GUYS -- I'M WAITING FOR YOU!
DON'T BE SHY! I'M ONLY ONE MAN!
ONE NOT-VERY-HAPPY MAN!
UNNHH! WHILE I WAS CONGRATULATING MYSELF, ANOTHER SWOOPED IN FROM BEHIND!
LOSING MY BALANCE -- OKAY, KEEP CALM... THINK THIS OUT.
EVEN IF IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO THINK STRAIGHT.
UH-OH! UGLY'S BEING JOINED BY EVEN UGLIER.
FORMING A SANDWICH...
...WITH ME IN THE MIDDLE.
BUT NOT IF I CAN TWIST AROUND...
LET FRIEND MEET FRIEND.
YAGGHHHH
11

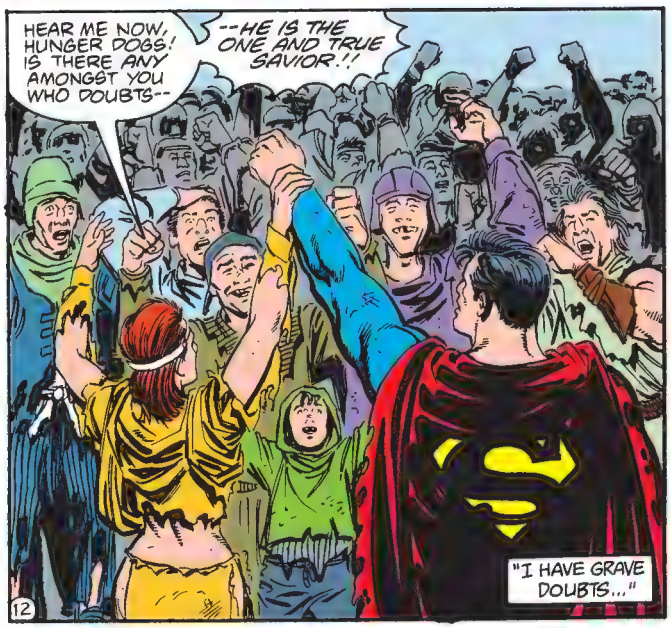

AMAZING GRACE WAS RIGHT.!
HE IS OUR SAVIOR!
:UNHHH:,,, MIND'S CLOUDING OVER AGAIN,,, WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS WRONG WITH ME?

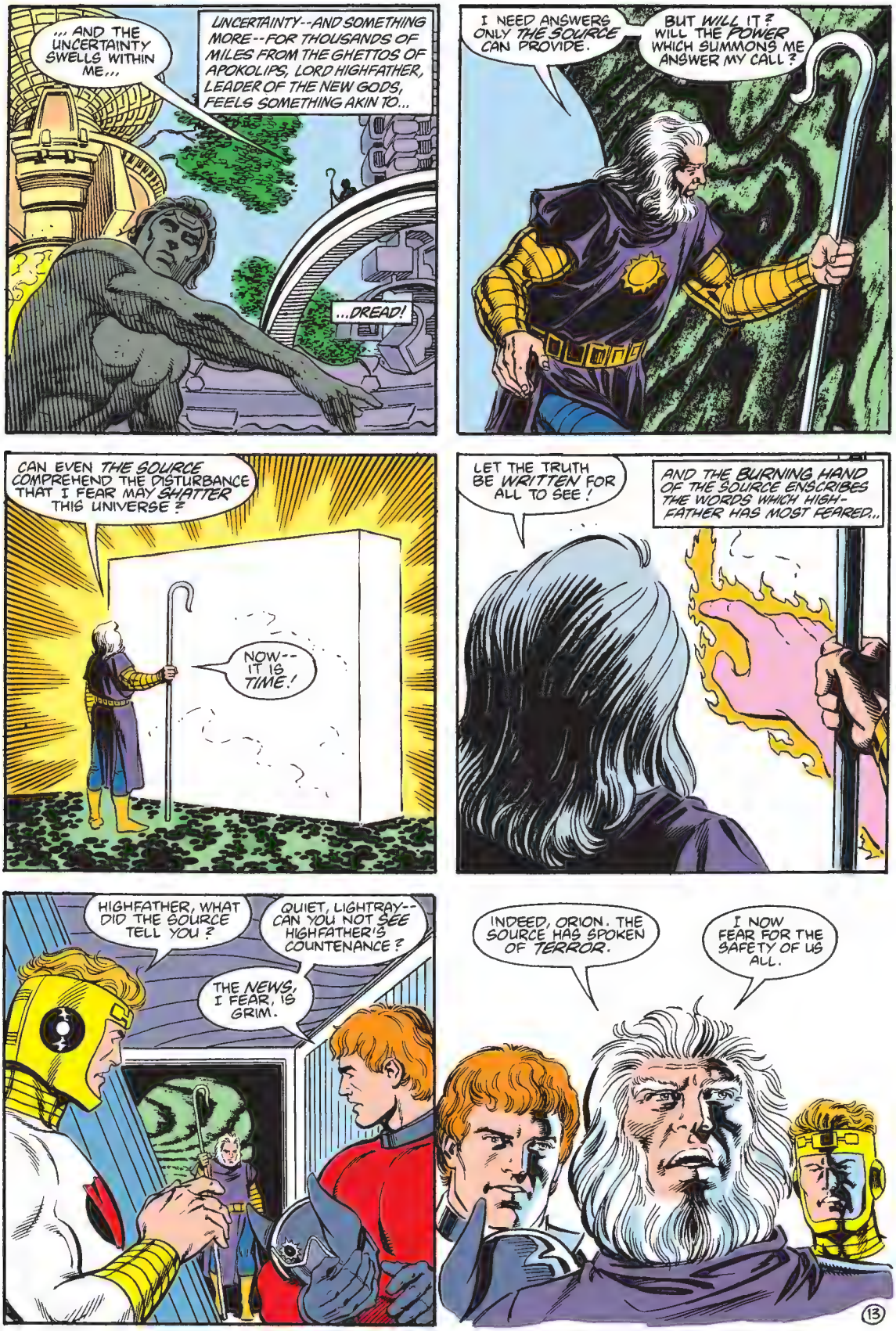
THERE, DARKSEID.!
THIS SPELLS THE END OF YOUR TYRANNY.!

THE PARA-DEMON'S ARMOR IS WORTH A SMALL FORTUNE!
I CLAIM IT FIRST!
NO-- ME!

YOU SAVED US,,,
,,,MY FRIEND.

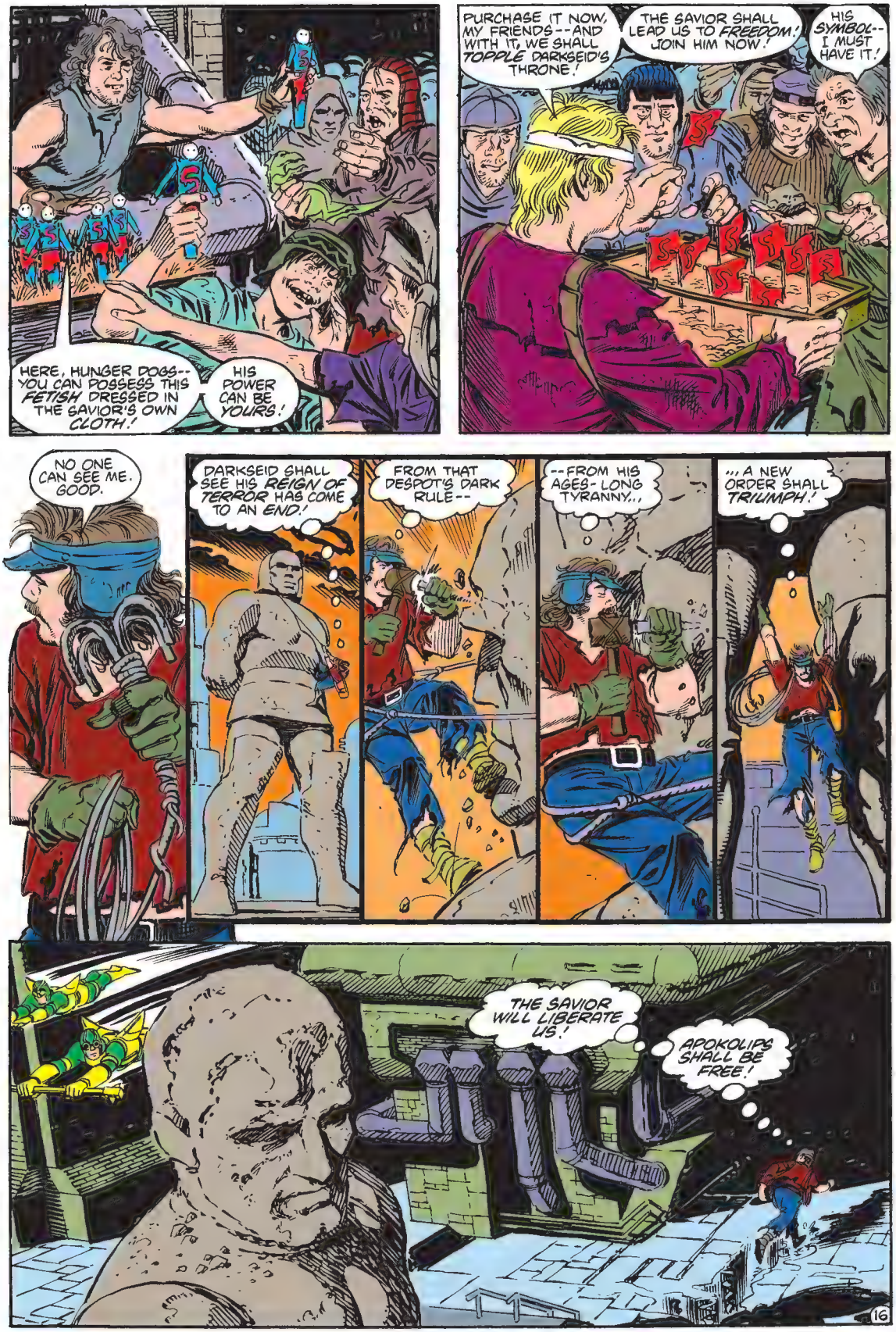

I,,, GUESS I DID.
WITH ONE GOOD HAND, YOU ROUTED DARKSEID'S FEARSOME DEMONS.


HEAR ME NOW, HUNGER DOGS! IS THERE ANY AMONGST YOU WHO DOUBTS--
--HE IS THE ONE AND TRUE SAVIOR.!!
"I HAVE GRAVE DOUBTS..."
12


,,, AND THE UNCERTAINTY SWELLS WITHIN ME,,,
UNCERTAINTY--AND SOMETHING MORE--FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM THE GHETTOS OF APOKOLIPS, LORD HIGHFATHER, LEADER OF THE NEW GODS, FEELS SOMETHING AKIN TO...
...DREAD!
I NEED ANSWERS ONLY THE SOURCE CAN PROVIDE.
BUT WILL IT? WILL THE POWER WHICH SUMMONS ME ANSWER MY CALL?
CAN EVEN THE SOURCE COMPREHEND THE DISTURBANCE THAT I FEAR MAY SHATTER THIS UNIVERSE?
NOW-- IT IS TIME!
LET THE TRUTH BE WRITTEN FOR ALL TO SEE!
AND THE BURNING HAND OF THE SOURCE ENSCRIBES THE WORDS WHICH HIGH-FATHER HAS MOST FEARED..
HIGHFATHER, WHAT DID THE SOURCE TELL YOU?
QUIET, LIGHTRAY-- CAN YOU NOT SEE HIGHFATHER'S COUNTENANCE?
THE NEWS, I FEAR, IS GRIM.
INDEED, ORION. THE SOURCE HAS SPOKEN OF TERROR.
I NOW FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF US ALL.
13

ON APOKOLIPS, AN UNUSUALLY CONTRASTING MOOD PREVAILS...
WELL, GRACE, LUCK HAS BEEN ON OUR SIDE, AT LONG LAST.
INDEED, RONO.
WITH THE SAVIOR AT OUR SIDE, VICTORY IS AT LAST WITHIN OUR GRASP.
I CAN ALREADY SMELL DARKSEID'S DEFEAT.
AYE, AND A SWEET FRAGRANCE IT IS. LONG MAY IT LINGER.
COME... I FEEL THE RUSH OF GOOD FORTUNE.
CELEBRATION IS NECESSARY.
14
A TOAST THEN...
...TO OUR HOPES...
...OUR REVOLUTION...
...AND OUR VICTORY.

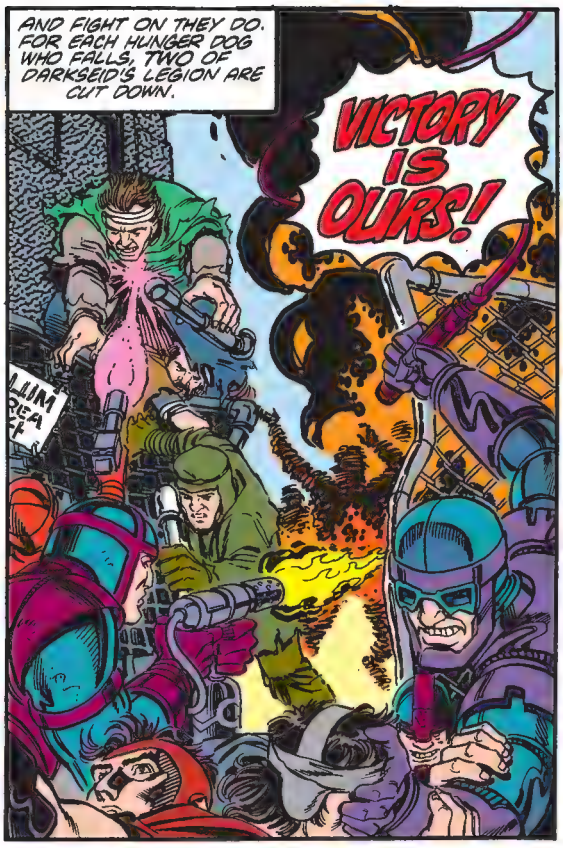
HOW ARE YOU NOW, SAVIOR?
CONFUSED. I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WITH ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU, SAVIOR, IT WOULD BE A MIRACLE IF YOU DID UNDERSTAND.
HOW ARE YOUR PAINS? YOU WERE SEVERELY INJURED.
THIS BATH IS EXCEPTIONALLY SOOTHING.
THE HERBS SHOULD HEAL YOUR WOUNDS.
ANGLAR, TAKE AWAY THE SAVIOR'S TRAPPINGS AND SEE IF HIS NEW GARB IS READY.
INDEED, AMAZING GRACE.
WAIT. DON'T--
--MY UNIFORM.'?!
YOU NO LONGER NEED IT, SAVIOR. WE HAVE PREPARED NEW GARMENTS BEFITTING A WARRIOR.
YOU DO UNDERSTAND.
I,,, I DO.
YES, AT LAST A WARRIOR HAS COME TO APOKOLIPS WHO IS WORTHY OF AMAZING GRACE.
YOU AND I, SAVIOR-- WHAT A TEAM WE WILL BE.
SOON, WE SHALL RULE THIS DECADENT WORLD-- TOGETHER.
15


HERE, HUNGER DOGS-- YOU CAN POSSESS THIS FETISH DRESSED IN THE SAVIOR'S OWN CLOTH!
HIS POWER CAN BE YOURS!
PURCHASE IT NOW, MY FRIENDS--AND WITH IT, WE SHALL TOPPLE DARKSEID'S THRONE!
THE SAVIOR SHALL LEAD US TO FREEDOM! JOIN HIM NOW!
HIS SYMBOL-- I MUST HAVE IT!
NO ONE CAN SEE ME. GOOD.
DARKSEID SHALL SEE HIS REIGN OF TERROR HAS COME TO AN END!
FROM THAT DESPOT'S DARK RULE--
--FROM HIS AGES-LONG TYRANNY...
...A NEW ORDER SHALL TRIUMPH!
THE SAVIOR WILL LIBERATE US!
APOKOLIPS SHALL BE FREE!
16

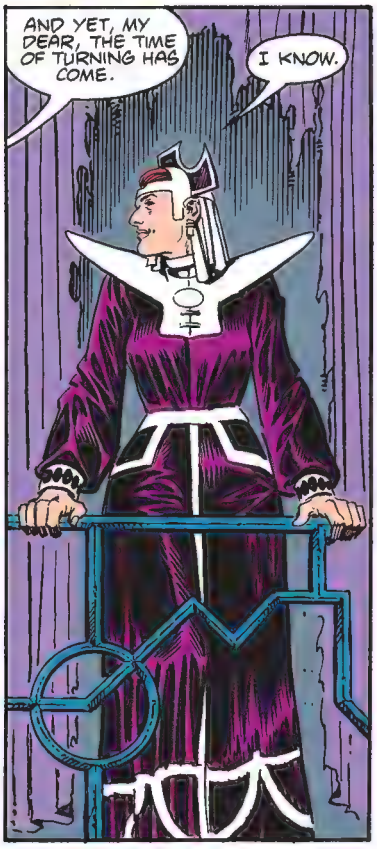
"AMAZING GRACE.' THE SAVIOR LEADS OUR FORCES INTO BATTLE. THE WAR HAS BEGUN.'"
"THEN SETTLE BACK, FAITHFUL ONE. AND ENJOY!"
DARKSEID'S TROOPS HAVE GREATER WEAPONS THAN WE, BUT THAT WILL NOT STOP US.' THE HUNGER DOGS CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED.' OUR NUMBER IS LEGION.'
FIGHT ON.'
FREEDOM WILL BE OURS.'
IN THE FIRST ASSAULT, ONE THOUSAND HUNGER DOGS FALL BEFORE THE FORCES OF DARKSEID. BUT THE TEN THOUSAND BEHIND THEM PRESS FORWARD. AND BEHIND THOSE TEN THOUSAND YET ANOTHER WAVE STANDS READY...
JERRY ORDWAY 9.86
17

...FOR THIS IS WAR...
...AND THE HUNGER DOGS LIVE AND DIE FOR BATTLE!
BUT, ALTHOUGH TRAINED IN GRANNY GOODNESS' DISMAL MILITARY ORPHANAGES, AND LED BY THE FIERCEST FIGHTING MACHINE THEY HAVE EVER SEEN, DARKSEID'S SUPERIOR WEAPONS SOON BEGIN TO TAKE THEIR TOLL.
FIVE THOUSAND MORE ARE DOWNED IN THE FIRST TWENTY-THREE MINUTES.
ANOTHER TEN THOUSAND FALL IN THE SECOND AND THIRD ASSAULT.
BLOODIED, WEARY, HOPELESSLY LACKING IN WEAPONS, THE SURVIVORS FIGHT ON.
THIS IS A WAR THE HUNGER DOGS CANNOT HOPE TO WIN.
18

FIGHT ON! FOR AMAZING GRACE! FOR APOKOLIPS!


AND FIGHT ON THEY DO. FOR EACH HUNGER DOG WHO FALLS, TWO OF DARKSEID'S LEGION ARE CUT DOWN.
VICTORY IS OURS!

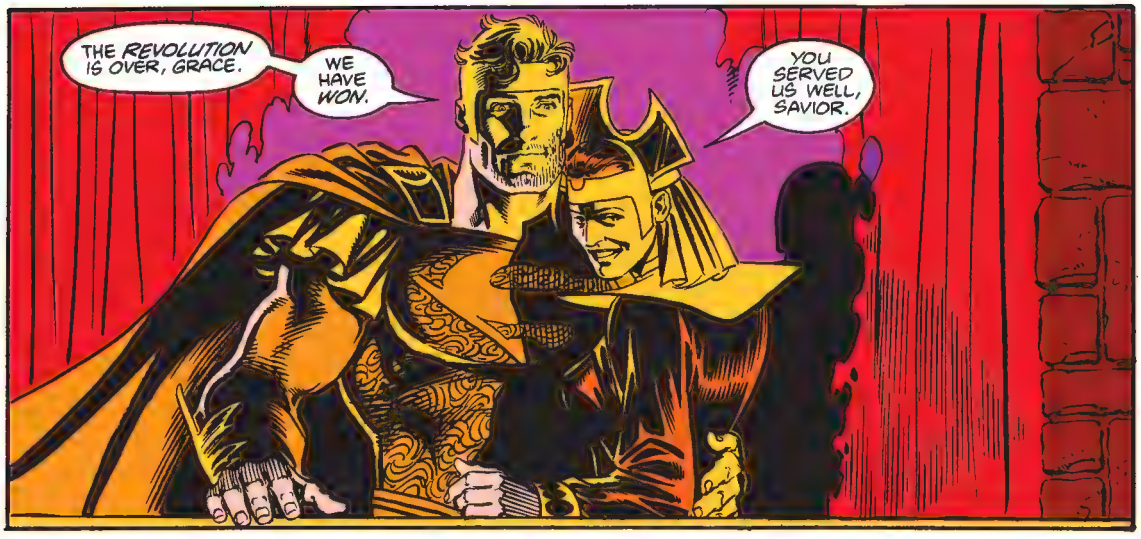
ALL PROCEEDS AS PLANNED.
THEIR LUST PUSHES THEM EVER ONWARD. I DOUBT IF ANYTHING COULD EASILY STOP THEM.

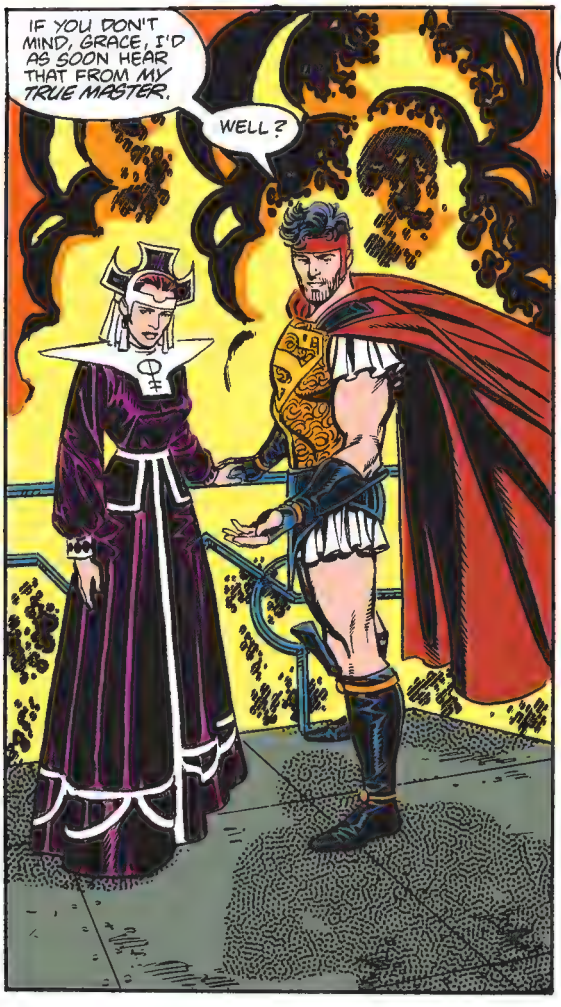

AND YET, MY DEAR, THE TIME OF TURNING HAS COME.
I KNOW.

AND I AM, AS ALWAYS, READY TO SERVE.
GRACE...
19

...VICTORY IS OURS!
AND I'VE COME TO CLAIM MY PRIZE!
YOUR LOVE FUELED THE BURNING IN MY BREAST.
TO WIN THAT LOVE, VICTORY HAD TO BE MINE.
LATER, SAVIOR... WE WILL REJOICE IN PRIVATE.
INDEED... THE SAVIOR HAS SERVED ME WELL.
EH?
OUTSIDE, THE ROAR OF CELEBRATION SUMMONS GRACE. SHE STARES AT THE THOUSANDS WAITING ANXIOUSLY FOR HER NEXT WORD.
MY HUNGER DOGS...
VICTORY IS NEAR. THIS HAS BEEN A TIME OF UNREST ON APOKOLIPS.
A TERRIBLE TIME. BUT THROUGHOUT IT, THERE HAS BEEN A SINGLE BURNING HOPE IN THE HEARTS OF THE DOWNTRODDEN.
THE HOPE THAT A SAVIOR WOULD COME, AND LEAD THEM TO FREEDOM.
THE SAVIOR HAS COME, AND WE ARE FREE!
20

THE SAVIOR!
ALL PRAISE THE SAVIOR!
SILENCE. LET ME SPEAK.
YOU'VE HAD THE HOPE FOR FREEDOM BURN WITHIN YOU LONG ENOUGH.
INDEED, IT HAS SUSTAINED YOU THROUGH THE TERRIBLE MISERIES YOU SUFFER EACH DAY.
THAT HOPE FOR A SAVIOR IS WHAT HAS DRIVEN YOU AGAINST THE RULE OF DARKSEID.
AND NOW IT IS TIME FOR THE GREAT CHANGE.
LET THAT LAST GREAT HOPE--
ARMAGEDDON
--BE ENDED!
THE PARA-DEMONS SWOOP LOW, THEIR WEAPONS DRAWN AND FIRING. AND, WITHIN MOMENTS...
...THE HUNGER DOGS ARE ROUTED!
21


THE REVOLUTION IS OVER, GRACE.
WE HAVE WON.
YOU SERVED US WELL, SAVIOR.


IF YOU DON'T MIND, GRACE, I'D AS SOON HEAR THAT FROM MY TRUE MASTER.
WELL?

YOU HAVE LED THEM ALONG THE PATH THEY SO DESIRED, AND AT THE END THEY FOUND ONLY PAIN AND SUFFERING.
THE SURVIVORS-- IF SURVIVORS THERE BE-- WILL TELL THE REST OF THE HUNGER DOGS.
THE FLAME OF HOPE WILL FLICKER AND GROW COLD AGAIN.
YOU HAVE INDEED SERVED ME WELL, MY SON.

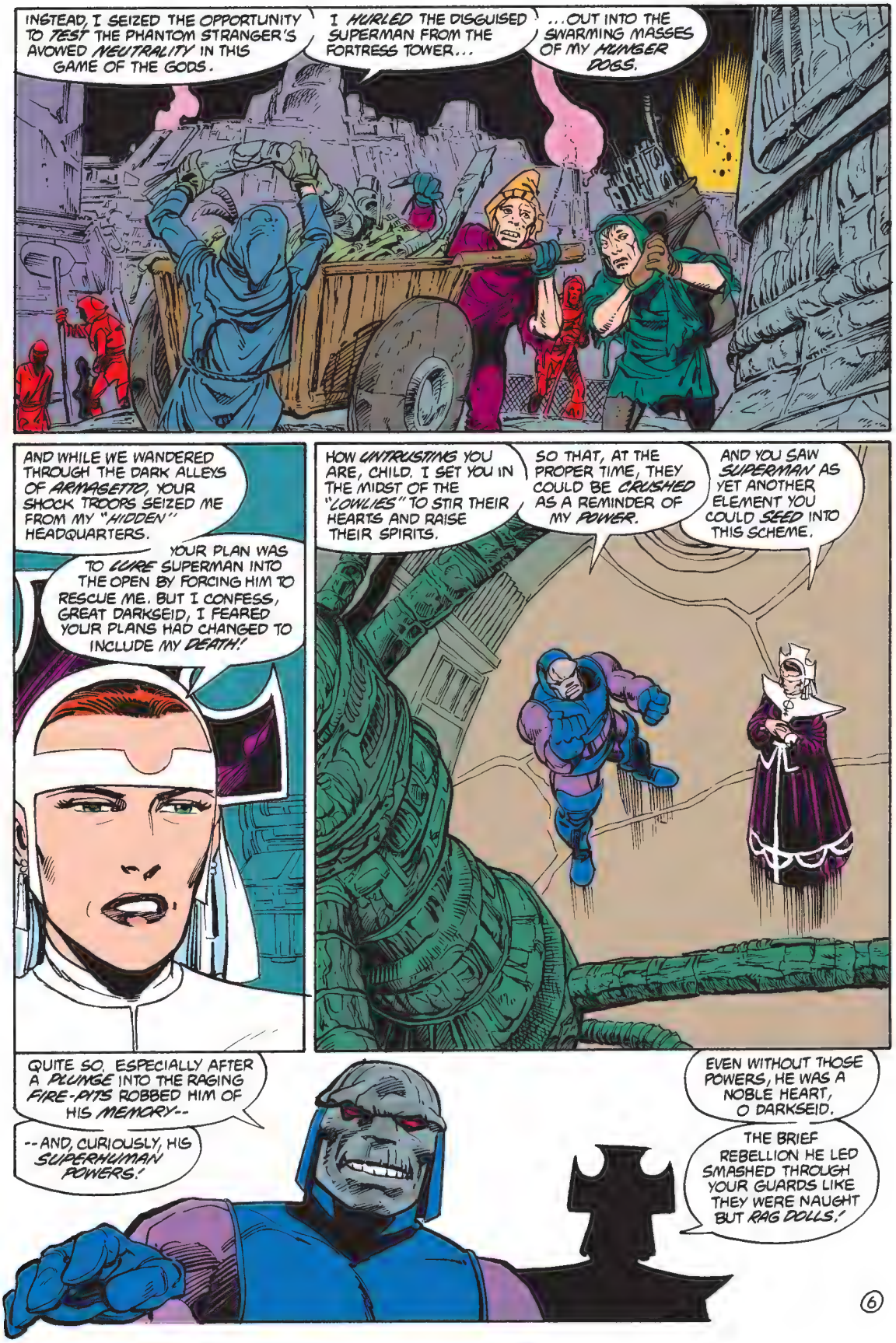
BEYOND SPACE, BEYOND TIME...
A PLACE WHERE THE NARROW RULES OF MAN ARE BENT ASIDE, AND GODS REIGN!
HE'S FALLING BEHIND AGAIN. WHY DOES HE HESITATE?
ORION! MAKE HASTE, MY FRIEND! THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!
G-2735
YOU'RE TOO QUICK TO RACE INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH, LIGHTRAY.
WHAT MUST TRANSPIRE AHEAD WILL AWAIT OUR COMING, NEVER FEAR.
WHY SUCH RETICENCE, ORION? HIGHFATHER SENT US ON A MISSION OF MERCY.
WHY DOES YOUR WARRIOR'S SOUL WEAKEN NOW?
IS IT WEAKNESS YOU SEE IN ME, LIGHTRAY? HOW OFTEN IN THE PAST YOU'VE COUNSELLED ME TO LET GO THE WAYS OF WAR, AND LEARN TO LAUGH AGAIN.
NOW YOU CHIDE ME WHEN I PAUSE BEFORE HURLING MYSELF ONCE MORE INTO THE BATTLEFIELD.
I STAND CORRECTED, ORION. BUT HIGHFATHER BADE US GO WITH GREATEST HASTE. HE SPOKE AS IF THE FATE OF ALL NEW GENESIS WAS HUNG UPON OUR SPEED.
"NEW GENESIS." LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, YOU TALK AS IF THE FLOATING CITY WERE THE WORLD ITSELF.
LOOK AROUND YOU, LIGHTRAY.
THESE TUMBLING ASTEROIDS ARE ALL THAT NOW REMAIN OF THE ONCE-GLORIOUS PLANET OF YOUR BIRTH.
1

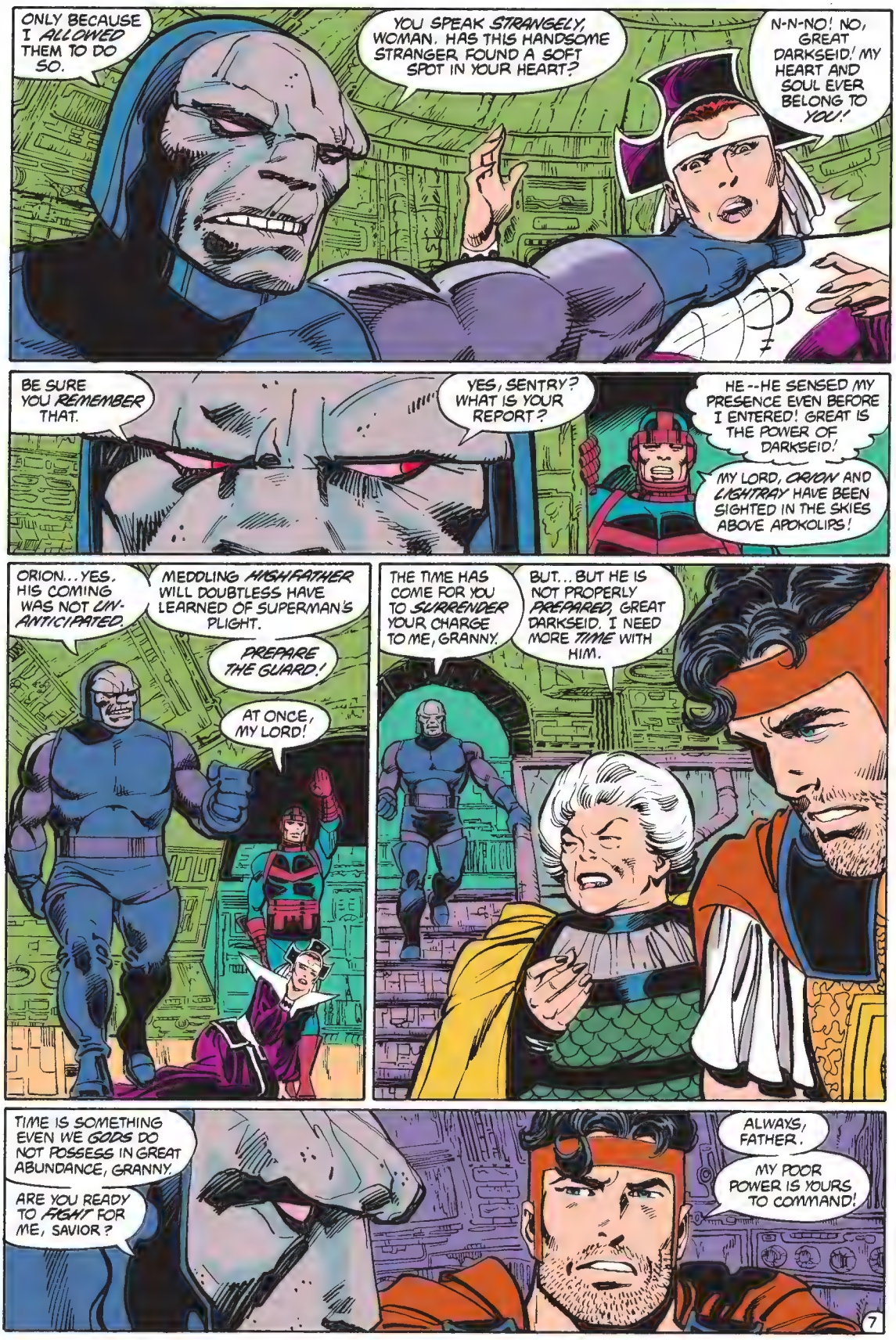
TRUE ENOUGH, BUT A WORLD IS MORE THAN THE ROCKS AND SOIL THAT MAKE IT UP, ORION.
NEW GENESIS IS *GONE*, TO BE SURE. BUT THE *PEOPLE* SURVIVE INTACT, AND SO LONG AS THEY DO...
...SO WILL THE *SPIRIT* OF THAT NOBLE WORLD ENDURE.
PERHAPS, PERHAPS, YOUR HEART IS EVER *LIGHTER* THAN MINE, LIGHTRAY, YOUR BLOOD *SINGS* IN TRIBUTE TO EACH NEW DAY.
WHILE MY HEART PUMPS FASTER ONLY WHEN IT HEARS THE CALL OF *BATTLE*. AND THAT'S A SIREN SOUND I'VE HEARD TOO OFTEN IN MY MANY YEARS.
YOURS IS A HEAVY BURDEN, ORION.
HEAVIER BY FAR THAN ANY OF THE OTHER GODS OF NEW GENESIS.
IT'S BECAUSE I AM NOT *NATIVE* TO THAT PLEASANT SPHERE, LIGHTRAY.
BY BIRTH I AM A CHILD OF THAT BLACK CAULDRON LOOMING NOW BEFORE US--
--THE PLANET APOKOLIPS!
HOME OF DEADLY *DARKSEID*. WORLD OF CRUSHING DARKNESS AND DESPAIR.
INTO THAT FIERY MAW, HIGHFATHER SENDS US ONCE AGAIN--AND THIS TIME, ON A MISSION WHICH *TRANSCENDS* ALL OTHERS!
TO SAVE A FALLEN HERO!
2

SUPERMAN vs. THE NEW GODS!
THE CHAMPION!
MORE! MORE PRESSURE! MORE! MORE! MORE!!
G-GRANNY! N-NO! PLEASE! MY BACK WILL BREAK!!!
JOHN BYRNE – storyteller
DICK GIORDANO – Embellisher
JOHN COSTANZA – letterer
TOM ZIUKO – colorist
ANDREW HELFER – Editor
3

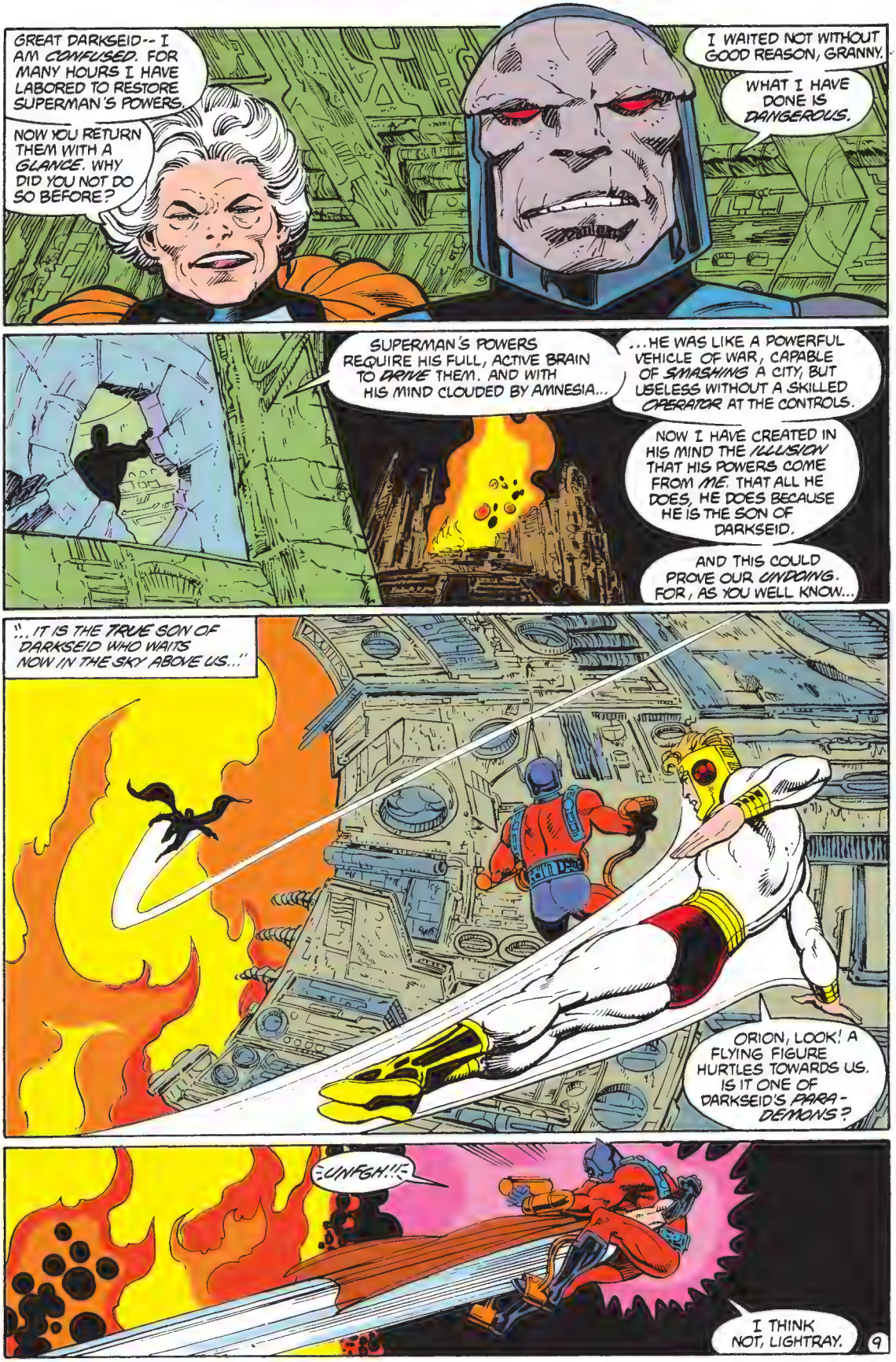
DO YOU WHINE, SAVIOR? DO YOU SNIVEL? YOU DISAPPOINT GRANNY.
GRANNY HAS TOLD YOU THAT YOU WILL SURVIVE THIS TESTING.
DO YOU NOT TRUST GRANNY?
I...TRUST... YOU.
BUT...THE PRESSURE...
THE PRESSURE IS NO MORE THAN YOU CAN BEAR, MY PRECIOUS ONE. GRANNY WOULD NOT HURT HER FAVORITE STUDENT.
AND YOU ARE GRANNY'S FAVORITE, SAVIOR. YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WILL SHINE AS THE PINNACLE OF GRANNY'S WORK!
FOR YOU ARE MORE THAN JUST A RUFFIAN TAKEN FROM THE MOBS OF ARMAGETTO. YOU ARE THE SON OF DARKSEID! NEVER FORGET THAT!
NOW--MORE PRESSURE!!
IS...THIS WISE, MY LORD?
THE AMNESIA THAT PUT SUPERMAN IN OUR POWER ALSO ROBS HIM OF HIS STRENGTH.
AND GRANNY GOODNESS WILL RESTORE IT.
OR DOES AMAZING GRACE QUESTION HER MASTER?
4

N-NO, GREAT DARKSEID!
NEVER!
NEVER!
PATHETIC CREATURE. YOUR CRINGING MANNER REMINDS ME OF YOUR BROTHER, GLORIOUS GODFREY.
A PITY THAT YOU DO NOT ALSO SHARE THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS MANIPULATING POWERS.
M-MY MASTER IS DISSATISFIED WITH MY WORK?
NO. YOU HAVE DONE WELL IN YOUR PART IN THIS, GIVEN THE HASTE WITH WHICH THE PLAN WAS MODIFIED.
FOR SEVERAL DAYS NOW I HAVE TASKED THE HEROES OF THE PLANET EARTH.
I HAVE TARNISHED THEIR GOLDEN, GLOWING LEGENDS. YOUR BROTHER, WITH HIS POWER TO SHAPE THE THOUGHTS OF HUMANS, HAS AIDED ME IN THIS.
WHEN I BROUGHT SUPERMAN TO APOKOLIPS, IT WAS TO TEST HIS VAUNTED METTLE.
BUT HE ARRIVED IN HUMAN GUISE--AND SO, BECAUSE I WAS THEN OBSERVED BY THE GADFLY PHANTOM STRANGER, I PRETENDED NOT TO KNOW SUPERMAN FOR WHAT HE WAS.
5


INSTEAD, I SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEST THE PHANTOM STRANGER'S AVOWED NEUTRALITY IN THIS GAME OF THE GODS.
I HURLED THE DISGUISED SUPERMAN FROM THE FORTRESS TOWER...
...OUT INTO THE SWARMING MASSES OF MY HUNGER DOGS.
AND WHILE WE WANDERED THROUGH THE DARK ALLEYS OF ARMAGETTO, YOUR SHOCK TROOPS SEIZED ME FROM MY "HIDDEN" HEADQUARTERS.
YOUR PLAN WAS TO LURE SUPERMAN INTO THE OPEN BY FORCING HIM TO RESCUE ME. BUT I CONFESS, GREAT DARKSEID, I FEARED YOUR PLANS HAD CHANGED TO INCLUDE MY DEATH!
HOW UNTRUSTING YOU ARE, CHILD. I SET YOU IN THE MIDST OF THE "LOWLIES" TO STIR THEIR HEARTS AND RAISE THEIR SPIRITS.
SO THAT, AT THE PROPER TIME, THEY COULD BE CRUSHED AS A REMINDER OF MY POWER.
AND YOU SAW SUPERMAN AS YET ANOTHER ELEMENT YOU COULD SEED INTO THIS SCHEME.
QUITE SO. ESPECIALLY AFTER A PLUNGE INTO THE RAGING FIRE-PITS ROBBED HIM OF HIS MEMORY--
--AND, CURIOUSLY, HIS SUPERHUMAN POWERS!
EVEN WITHOUT THOSE POWERS, HE WAS A NOBLE HEART, O DARKSEID.
THE BRIEF REBELLION HE LED SMASHED THROUGH YOUR GUARDS LIKE THEY WERE NAUGHT BUT RAG DOLLS!
6


ONLY BECAUSE I ALLOWED THEM TO DO SO.
YOU SPEAK STRANGELY, WOMAN. HAS THIS HANDSOME STRANGER FOUND A SOFT SPOT IN YOUR HEART?
N-N-NO! NO, GREAT DARKSEID! MY HEART AND SOUL EVER BELONG TO YOU!
BE SURE YOU REMEMBER THAT.
YES, SENTRY? WHAT IS YOUR REPORT?
HE--HE SENSED MY PRESENCE EVEN BEFORE I ENTERED! GREAT IS THE POWER OF DARKSEID!
MY LORD, ORION AND LIGHTRAY HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN THE SKIES ABOVE APOKOLIPS!
ORION... YES, HIS COMING WAS NOT UN-ANTICIPATED.
MEDDLING HIGH FATHER WILL DOUBTLESS HAVE LEARNED OF SUPERMAN'S PLIGHT.
PREPARE THE GUARD!
AT ONCE, MY LORD!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO SURRENDER YOUR CHARGE TO ME, GRANNY.
BUT... BUT HE IS NOT PROPERLY PREPARED, GREAT DARKSEID. I NEED MORE TIME WITH HIM.
TIME IS SOMETHING EVEN WE GODS DO NOT POSSESS IN GREAT ABUNDANCE, GRANNY.
ARE YOU READY TO FIGHT FOR ME, SAVIOR?
ALWAYS, FATHER.
MY POOR POWER IS YOURS TO COMMAND!
7

"POOR" POWER? YOUR POWER IS NOT "POOR," SAVIOR. NO SCION OF DARKSEID IS EVER "POOR."
YOURS IS THE GREATEST POWER ON ALL APOKOLIPS. YOUR STRENGTH IS EXCEEDED ONLY BY MY OWN.
YOU CAN SHED THE PUNY BONDS OF GRAVITY. YOU CAN RESIST ALL INJURY.
THE POWER FLOWS FROM ME TO YOU. YOU ARE THE SON OF DARKSEID.
YOU ARE INVINCIBLE!!
YES... YES!!
I FEEL THE POWER. I FEEL THE STRENGTH.
IT SINGS IN MY SINEWS!
POWER SUCH AS NO MAN HAS EVER KNOWN!
I AM RENEWED! I AM REBORN!!
THEN GO, SAVIOR.
YOUR ENEMIES ARE WAITING, IN THE SKIES ABOVE OUR WORLD.
SMITE THEM! DESTROY THEM!
YES!
YES!!
FOR THE GLORY OF DARKSEID...
NOW STRIKES THE SAVIOR!!
8


GREAT DARKSEID-- I AM CONFUSED. FOR MANY HOURS I HAVE LABORED TO RESTORE SUPERMAN'S POWERS.
NOW YOU RETURN THEM WITH A GLANCE. WHY DID YOU NOT DO SO BEFORE?
I WAITED NOT WITHOUT GOOD REASON, GRANNY.
WHAT I HAVE DONE IS DANGEROUS.
SUPERMAN'S POWERS REQUIRE HIS FULL, ACTIVE BRAIN TO DRIVE THEM. AND WITH HIS MIND CLOUDED BY AMNESIA...
...HE WAS LIKE A POWERFUL VEHICLE OF WAR, CAPABLE OF SMASHING A CITY, BUT USELESS WITHOUT A SKILLED OPERATOR AT THE CONTROLS.
NOW I HAVE CREATED IN HIS MIND THE ILLUSION THAT HIS POWERS COME FROM ME. THAT ALL HE DOES, HE DOES BECAUSE HE IS THE SON OF DARKSEID.
AND THIS COULD PROVE OUR UNDOING. FOR, AS YOU WELL KNOW...
"...IT IS THE TRUE SON OF DARKSEID WHO WAITS NOW IN THE SKY ABOVE US..."
ORION, LOOK! A FLYING FIGURE HURTLES TOWARDS US. IS IT ONE OF DARKSEID'S PARA-DEMONS?
=UNFGH!!=
I THINK NOT, LIGHTRAY.
9

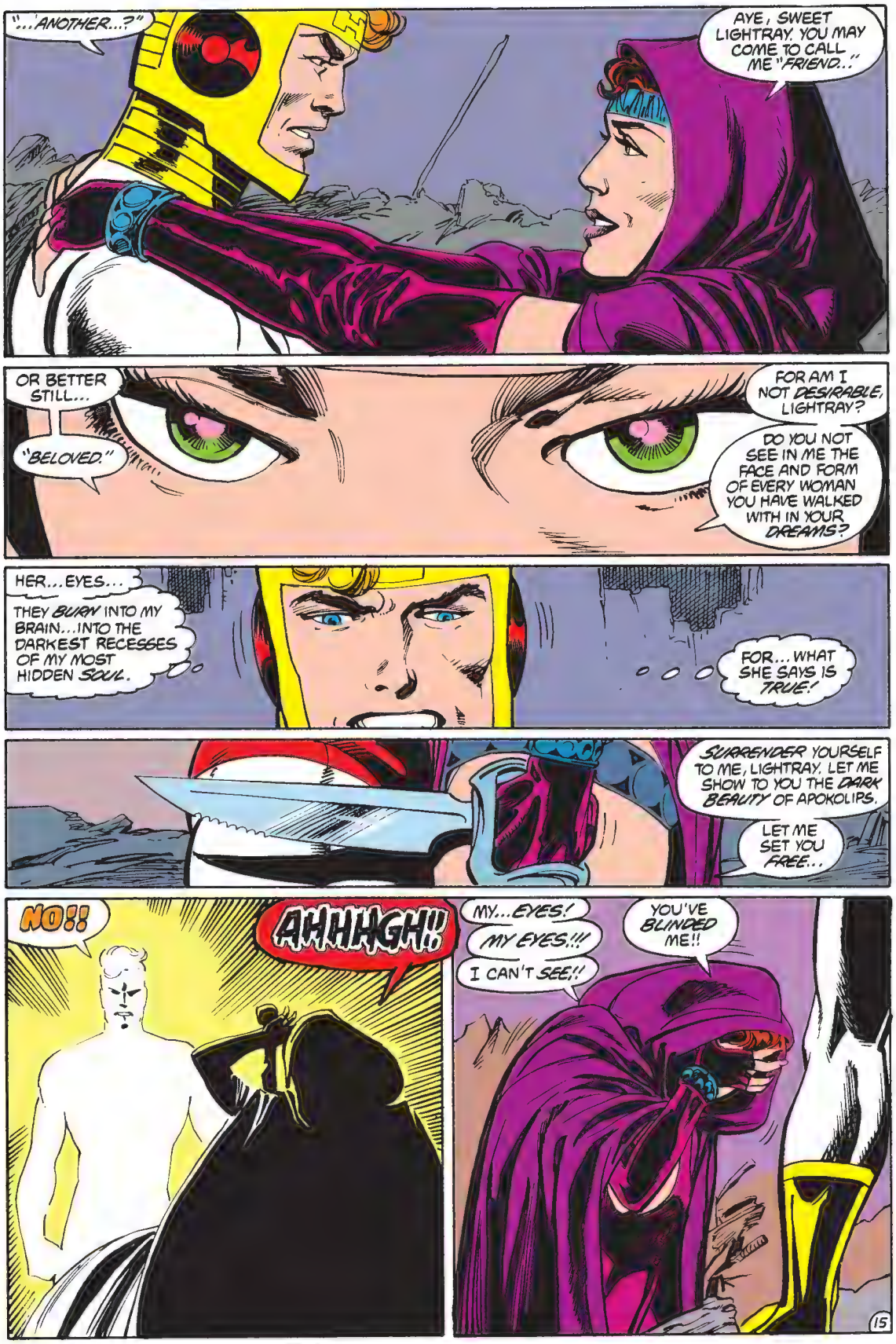
ORION! THAT'S SUPERMAN!!
THAT FACT HAS NOT ESCAPED ME, LIGHTRAY.
USE YOUR POWERS TO DRAW HIS ATTENTION...
QUICKLY!
AT ONCE, ORION!
WHAT...?!? LIGHT TRAILS, FLASHING ALL ABOUT ME...
-UNGH!!-
A PHENOMENON WELL-KNOWN AND LOVED ON NEW GENESIS, SUPERMAN.
10
AND ONE WHICH AFFORDS ME THE CHANCE TO RECOVER FROM YOUR SUDDEN ONSLAUGHT.
NOW, FALL BACK, LIGHTRAY! IF SUPERMAN HAS BEEN TURNED AGAINST US...
IT WILL TAKE STRATEGIC USE OF OUR COMBINED SKILLS TO STOP HIM... IF STOP HIM WE CAN, WITHOUT KILLING HIM!
I SHALL STRIKE FIRST!!

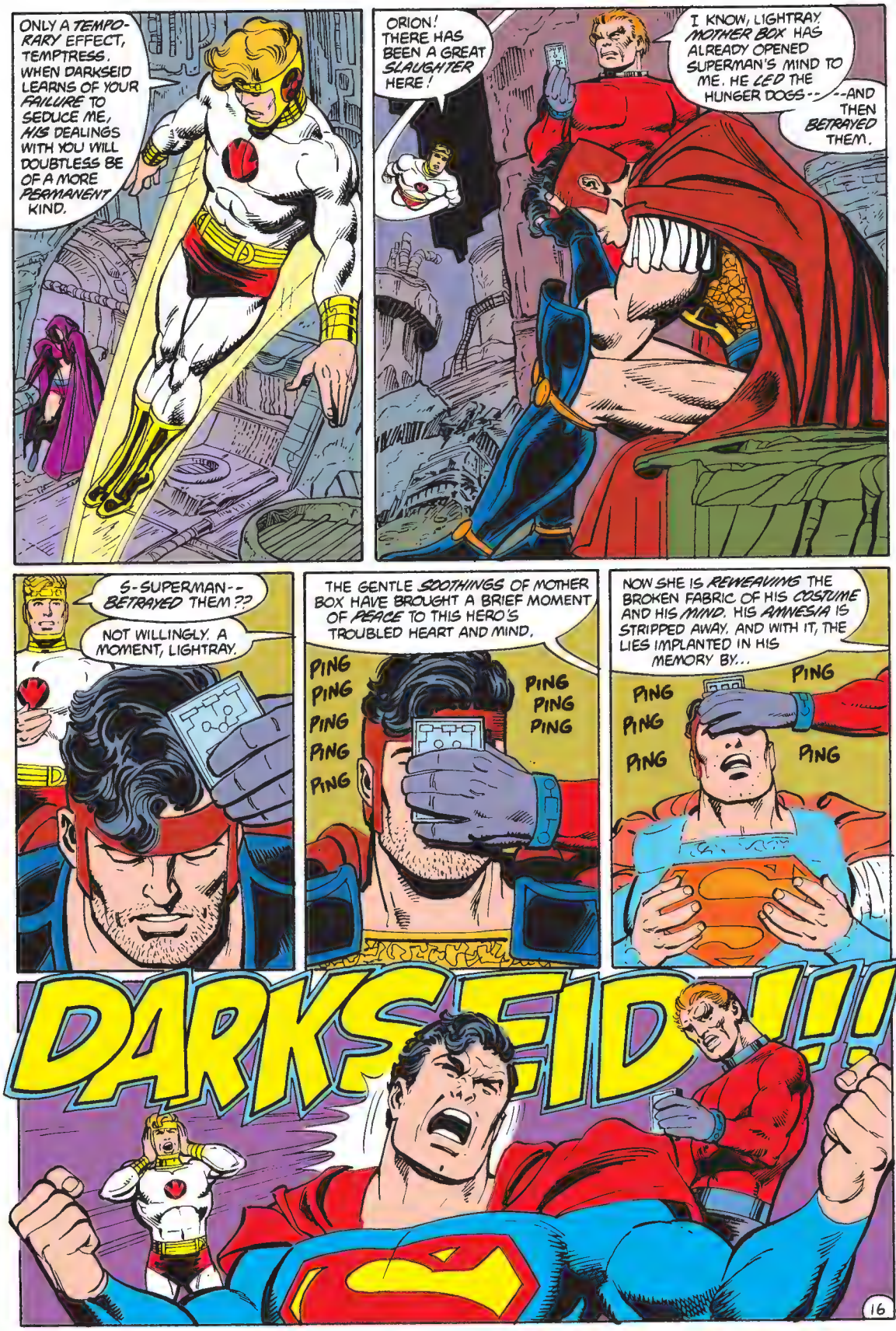
I MUST NOW WIELD MY ASTRO-FORCE WITH SURGICAL PRECISION!
ITS POWER CAN SHATTER WORLDS!
I NEED IT NOW TO MERELY STUN OUR ADVERSARY.
UNGH!
ENERGY BUBBLES...
...BURSTING...
...PUMMELING ME...
...MAKING IT... HARD TO... THINK STRAIGHT...
...BUT... GRANNY... WARNED ME TO BEWARE SUCH TRICKS, WARRIORS.
THEY'LL AVAIL YOU NOTHING HERE!
HERE YOU FACE SUPREME POWER!
RIP
HERE YOU STAND AGAINST THE SON OF DARKSEID!!
"...THE SON...??"
11

UNGH!!
ORION!!
STAND YOUR GROUND, LIGHTRAY!
I CLAIM MY WARRIOR'S RIGHT TO SINGLE COMBAT!
DO NOT INTERFERE!
BOLD WORDS, ORION! YOU SPEAK LIKE A HERO!
YET, HOW LITTLE DIFFERENCE THERE IS BETWEEN A HERO...
...AND A FOOL!
HE SPOUTS THE BLEAK PHILOSOPHIES OF DARKSEID AS IF THEY WERE HIS OWN!
HOW CRUEL A TWIST OF FATE THAT SUPERMAN SHOULD THINK HIMSELF DARKSEID'S WHELP, WHEN IT IS I WHO...
12

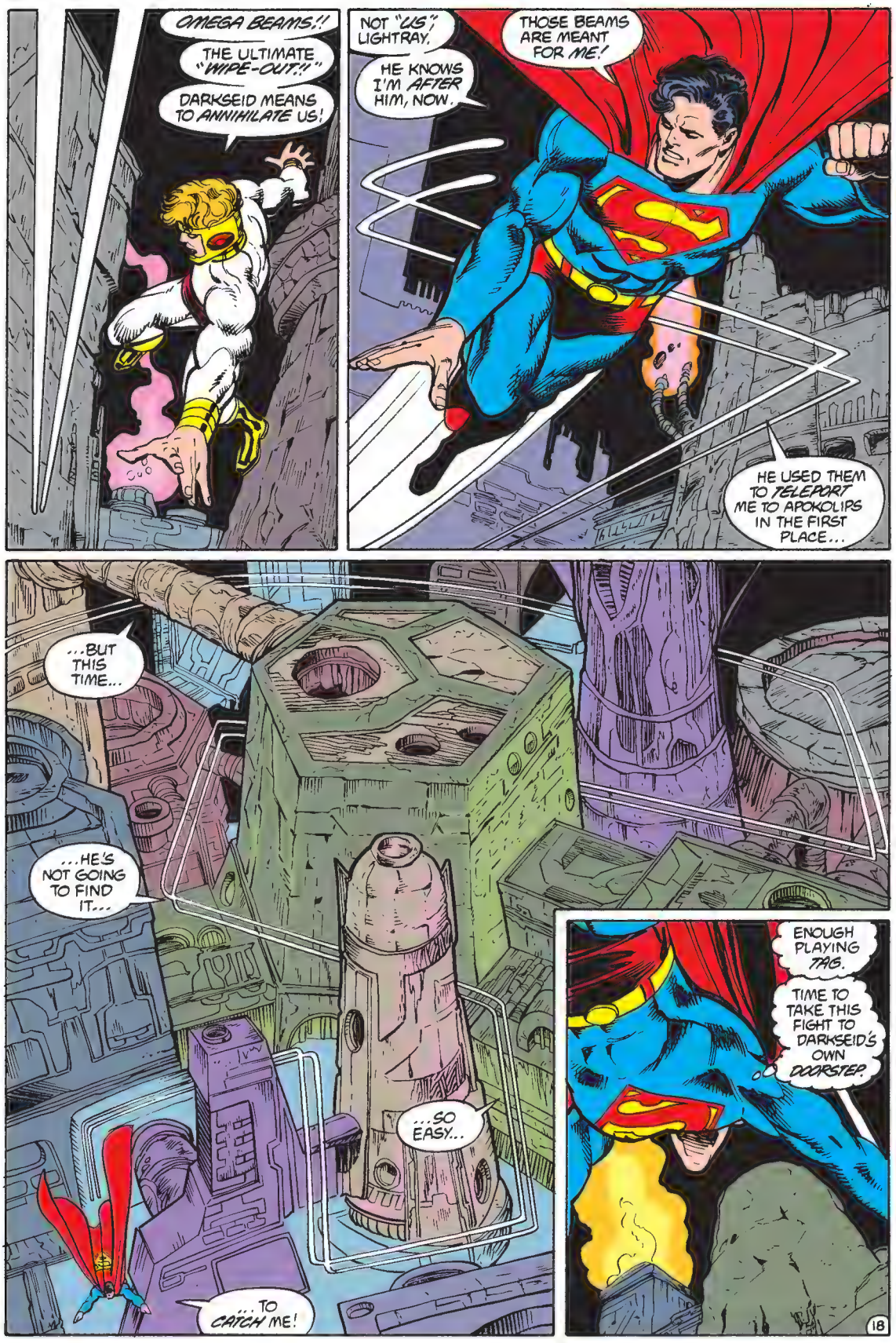
WAIT! ? PERHAPS THAT IS THE KEY!!!
DARKSEID HAS SOMEHOW CONVINCED THIS EARTHMAN HE IS A CHILD OF APOKOLIPS.
THAT MAY PLACE WITHIN MY GRASP THE MANNER BY WHICH HE MIGHT BE SHOWN THE TRUTH!
WHAM!
SO YOU CLAIM KINSHIP WITH THE BLACK LORD OF THIS ACCURSED WORLD, DO YOU?
THEN IT IS TIME YOU LEARNED THE FULL WEIGHT OF THAT BURDEN YOU SO EAGERLY ACCEPT.
TIME YOU LEARNED WHAT IT TRULY MEANS TO BE A SON OF DARKSEID!!
13

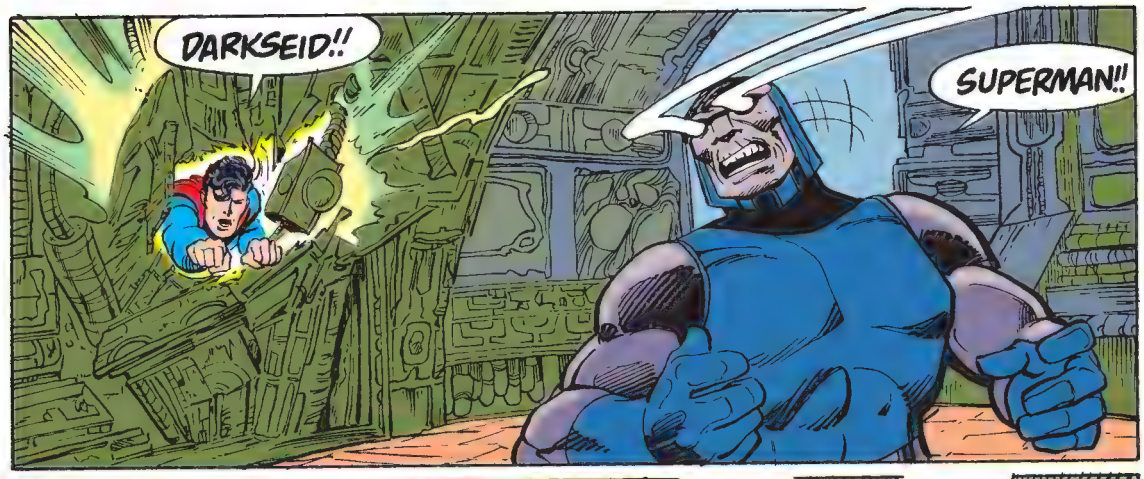
ORION EXPOSES HIS TRUE FACE TO SUPERMAN.
THERE ARE FEW EVEN ON NEW GENESIS WHO'VE SEEN THAT GRIM VISAGE.
HE MUST BE HOPING THE SHOCK OF BEING CONFRONTED BY THE FACT OF DARKSEID'S REAL SON WILL BRING SUPERMAN BACK TO HIS...
WHAT'S THAT...??
A BATTLEFIELD!
THE BROKEN CORPSES OF DARKSEID'S SHOCK-TROOPERS LIE SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THOSE OF THE HUNGER DOGS!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE? DID THE "LOWLIES" OF ARMAGETTO RISE UP AGAINST THEIR CRUEL MASTERS?
WHO COULD HAVE SPURRED THEM TO SUCH FOLLY?
YOU LOOK SURPRISED, PRETTY ONE.
HAVE YOU NEVER SEEN THE FACE OF WAR?
WHO...??
IN THESE PARTS, I AM SOMETIMES CALLED AMAZING GRACE, LIGHTRAY.
YOU MAY COME TO KNOW ME BY ANOTHER NAME.
14

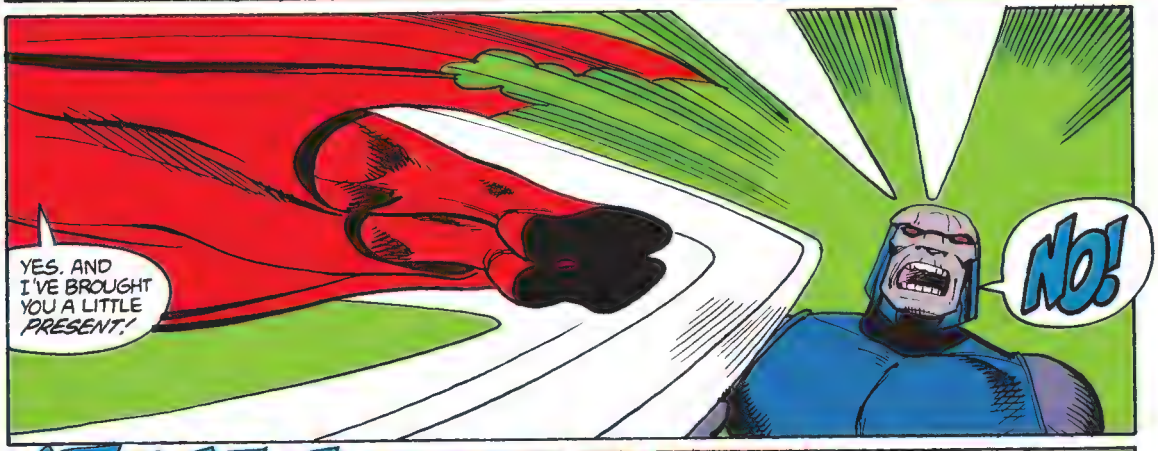

"...ANOTHER...?"
AYE, SWEET LIGHTRAY. YOU MAY COME TO CALL ME "FRIEND..."
OR BETTER STILL...
"BELOVED."
FOR AM I NOT DESIRABLE, LIGHTRAY?
DO YOU NOT SEE IN ME THE FACE AND FORM OF EVERY WOMAN YOU HAVE WALKED WITH IN YOUR DREAMS?
HER... EYES...
THEY BURN INTO MY BRAIN... INTO THE DARKEST RECESSES OF MY MOST HIDDEN SOUL.
FOR... WHAT SHE SAYS IS TRUE!
SURRENDER YOURSELF TO ME, LIGHTRAY. LET ME SHOW TO YOU THE DARK BEAUTY OF APOKOLIPS.
LET ME SET YOU FREE...
NO!!
AHHHGH!!
MY... EYES!
MY EYES!!!
I CAN'T SEE!!
YOU'VE BLINDED ME!!
15


ONLY A TEMPORARY EFFECT, TEMPTRESS. WHEN DARKSEID LEARNS OF YOUR FAILURE TO SEDUCE ME, HIS DEALINGS WITH YOU WILL DOUBTLESS BE OF A MORE PERMANENT KIND.
ORION! THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT SLAUGHTER HERE!
I KNOW, LIGHTRAY. MOTHER BOX HAS ALREADY OPENED SUPERMAN'S MIND TO ME. HE LED THE HUNGER DOGS--
--AND THEN BETRAYED THEM.
S-SUPERMAN-- BETRAYED THEM??
NOT WILLINGLY. A MOMENT, LIGHTRAY.
THE GENTLE SOOTHINGS OF MOTHER BOX HAVE BROUGHT A BRIEF MOMENT OF PEACE TO THIS HERO'S TROUBLED HEART AND MIND.
PING PING PING PING PING PING PING PING PING
NOW SHE IS REWEAVING THE BROKEN FABRIC OF HIS COSTUME AND HIS MIND. HIS AMNESIA IS STRIPPED AWAY. AND WITH IT, THE LIES IMPLANTED IN HIS MEMORY BY...
PING PING PING PING PING PING
DARKSEID!!!
16

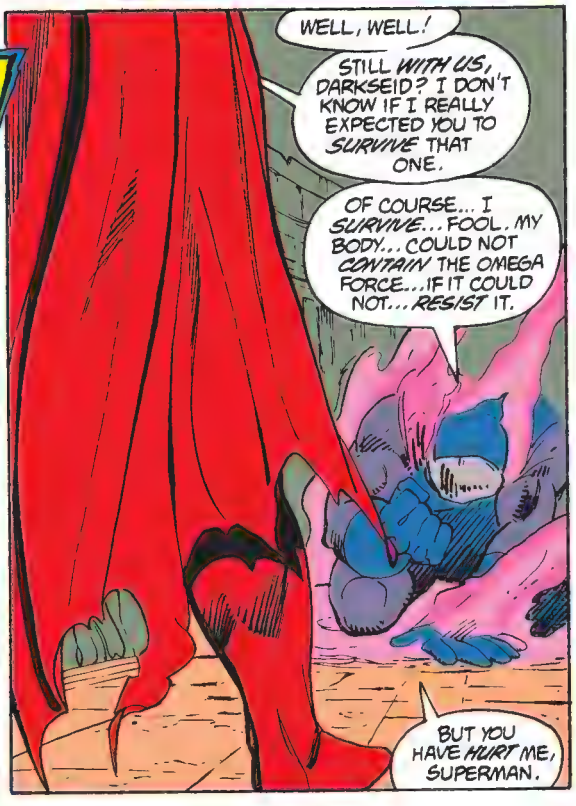
WHAT'S THIS...?
SO... SUPERMAN, IT SEEMS, IS FREE OF MY TANGLED WEB.
EVEN FROM THIS DISTANCE, I SENSE THE RAGE WHICH BOILS HIS ALIEN BLOOD. HE KNOWS HOW ILL I'VE TREATED HIM.
MY PLAN HAS GONE ASTRAY.
PERHAPS IN THIS I OVERREACHED MYSELF. PERHAPS IT WAS FOOLHARDY, SEEKING TO INCLUDE THIS MAN OF STEEL IN MY SMALL SCHEME TO FURTHER CRUSH THE SPIRITS OF MY HUNGER DOGS.
EVEN WITH AMNESIA FOGGING HIS BRAIN, SUPERMAN'S NOBLE NATURE COULD NOT TOO LONG BE SUPPRESSED.
ESPECIALLY IF ORION SHOWED THE TRUTH TO MY MISGUIDED "SAVIOR."
NO MATTER. DARKSEID IS NOT TOO PROUD TO ADMIT AN ERROR...
...AND CORRECT IT!!
17


OMEGA BEAMS!!
THE ULTIMATE "WIPE-OUT!!"
DARKSEID MEANS TO ANNIHILATE US!
NOT "US", LIGHTRAY.
HE KNOWS I'M AFTER HIM, NOW.
THOSE BEAMS ARE MEANT FOR ME!
HE USED THEM TO TELEPORT ME TO APOKOLIPS IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...BUT THIS TIME...
...HE'S NOT GOING TO FIND IT...
...SO EASY...
...TO CATCH ME!
ENOUGH PLAYING TAG.
TIME TO TAKE THIS FIGHT TO DARKSEID'S OWN DOORSTEP.
18


DARKSEID!!
SUPERMAN!!


YES. AND I'VE BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE PRESENT!
NO!

YAHHHGH!
19


WELL, WELL!
STILL WITH US, DARKSEID? I DON'T KNOW IF I REALLY EXPECTED YOU TO SURVIVE THAT ONE.
OF COURSE... I SURVIVE... FOOL. MY BODY... COULD NOT CONTAIN THE OMEGA FORCE... IF IT COULD NOT... RESIST IT.
BUT YOU HAVE HURT ME, SUPERMAN.

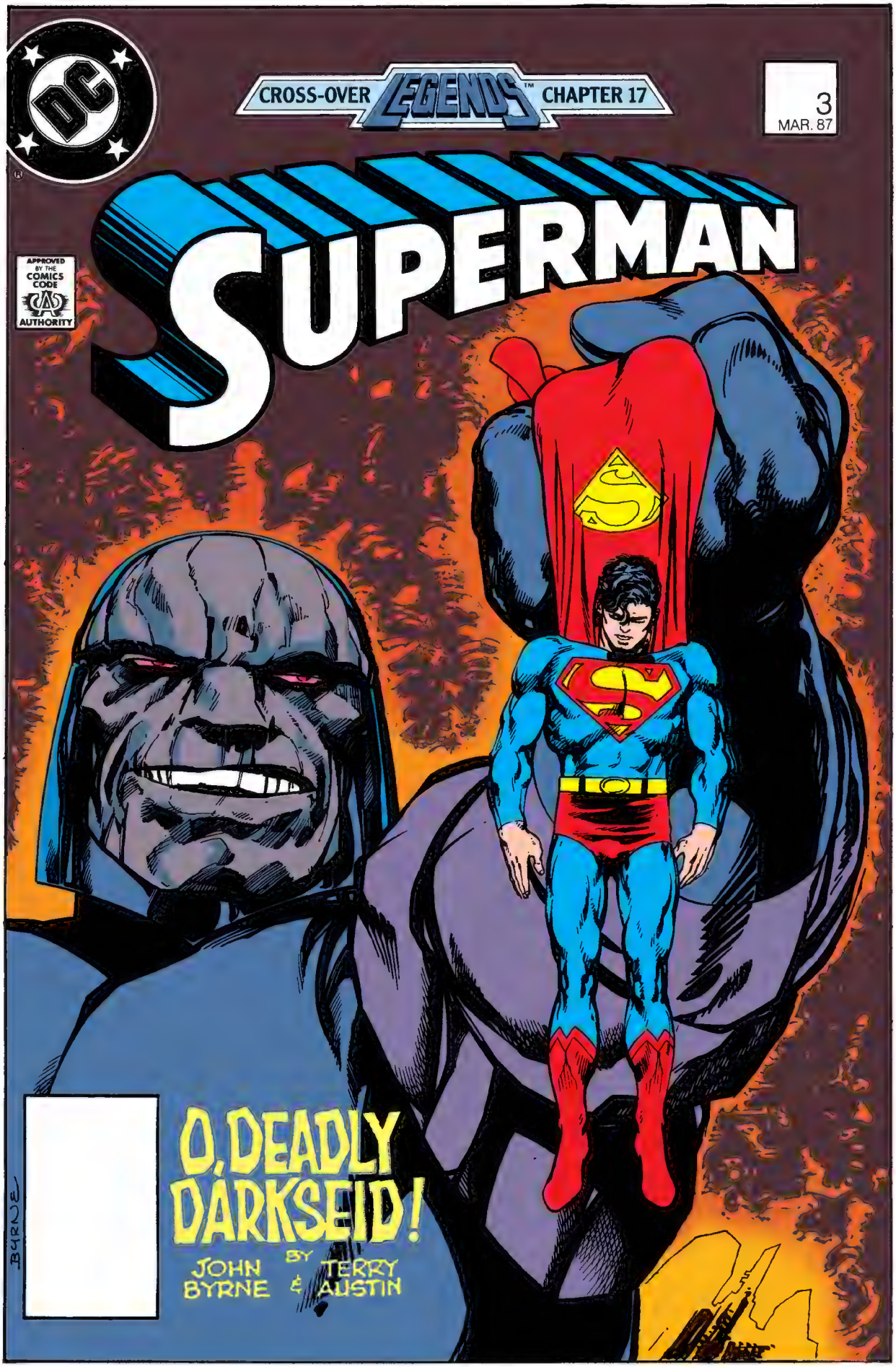
PERHAPS YOU'LL FIND SOME SMALL COMFORT IN THAT FACT...
...IN YOUR GRAVE!!
THE OMEGA FORCE IS SPENT. IT WILL TAKE TIME TO RETURN TO FULL POTENCY.
BUT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS IT CAN STILL DO.
GNAHHGH!!
I CAN ATTUNE THE FREQUENCY OF MY ENERGY BLASTS TO YOUR PRECISE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE, SUPERMAN.
HERE IS AGONY, HERO.
HERE IS PAIN SUCH AS YOU HAVE NEVER KNOWN.
ANGUISH THAT WILL MAKE YOU BEG...
...PLEAD FOR THE SWEET RELEASE OF DEATH!
DARKSEID...
20

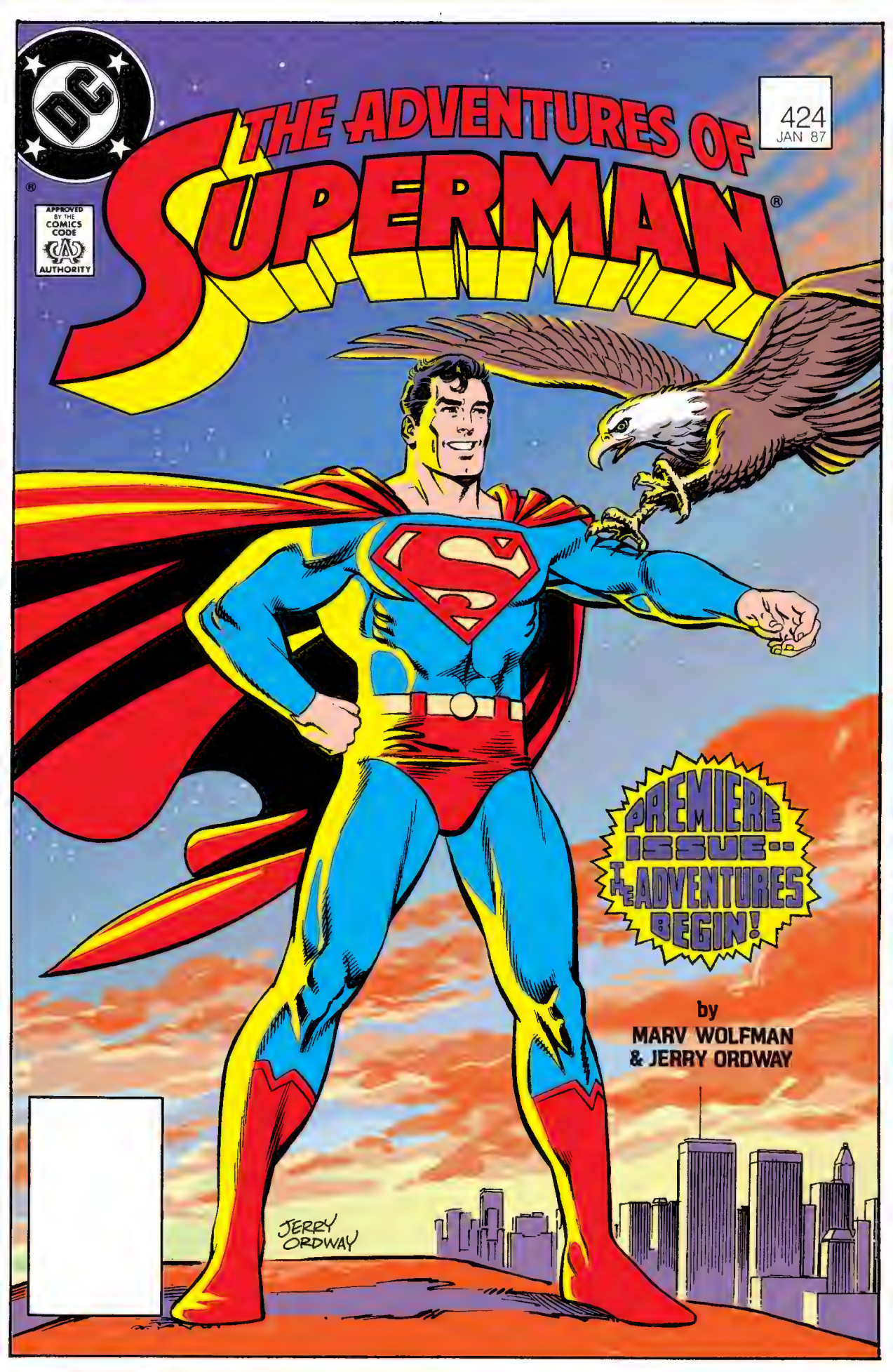
YOU TALK TOO MUCH!
UNH!
SURE, YOU HURT ME, DARKSEID. YOU PUT ME THROUGH A GAUNTLET LIKE I'VE NEVER KNOWN.
BUT DON'T PREACH AT ME ABOUT PAIN.
COMPARED TO AN EXPOSURE TO KRYPTONITE, ANYTHING YOU CAN THROW AT ME IS A WALK IN THE PARK!!
NOW...
LET'S FINISH THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
AYE, SUPERMAN. THIS GAME IS FINISHED.
EEEEEEEEEEEE
BUT ON MY TERMS!!
21

WHAT THE...??
EEEEEEEE
EE
BOOM
A BOOM TUBE! YOU'VE TELEPORTED HIM ACROSS THE COSMOS!
WHERE, DARKSEID?
WHERE DID THE STAR GATE CARRY HIM?
HOME, ORION.
HE BEAT ME FAIRLY. AND THOUGH DARKSEID MAY EVER SCHEME...
...HE NEVER CHEATS.
SUPERMAN HAS WON A SAFE TRIP BACK TO EARTH.
AND WHAT OF US, FATHER? DO YOU NOW TURN YOUR POWER TO OUR DESTRUCTION?
HOW ALIKE WE ARE, ORION. AND YET, HOW UNALIKE. THE TIME IS NOT COME FOR OUR LAST BATTLE.
IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO FIGHT TODAY, I SHALL NOT FORCE THE ISSUE.
THE TIME IS NOW FOR BINDING WOUNDS. SOON ENOUGH THE HOUR WILL TURN AGAIN TO CONFLICT.
AND SO IT ENDS, ORION? SUPERMAN IS RETURNED TO EARTH, TO CARRY FOR THE REST OF HIS DAYS THE GUILT OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SLAUGHTER OF ALL THOSE HUNGER DOGS AND SHOCK TROOPS?
NO, LIGHTRAY.
MOTHER BOX RESTORED HIS MEMORY--BUT NOT OF THAT. IT IS NOT FITTING ONE SUCH AS SUPERMAN SHOULD BEAR SUCH GRIEF.
WHY NOT? YOU'VE BORNE WORSE. IS SUPERMAN A LESSER HERO THAN YOU?
NO. BUT IT IS MY LOT TO BEAR SUCH THINGS. I AM A WARRIOR.
SUPERMAN IS SOMETHING MORE. SOMETHING SPECIAL.
HE IS A CHAMPION.
THE END
22

IT'S YOUR FIRST ISSUE,
1
JAN 87
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SUPERMAN
--AND IT COULD BE YOUR LAST!
BY BYRNE & AUSTIN

JOHN BYRNE & TERRY AUSTIN
2
FEB. 87
SUPERMAN
THE SECRET REVEALED!
CLARK KENT IS SUPERMAN


CROSS-OVER LEGENDS™ CHAPTER 17
3
MAR. 87
SUPERMAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
O, DEADLY DARKSEID!
BY JOHN BYRNE & TERRY AUSTIN
BYRNE


DC
THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN®
424
JAN 87
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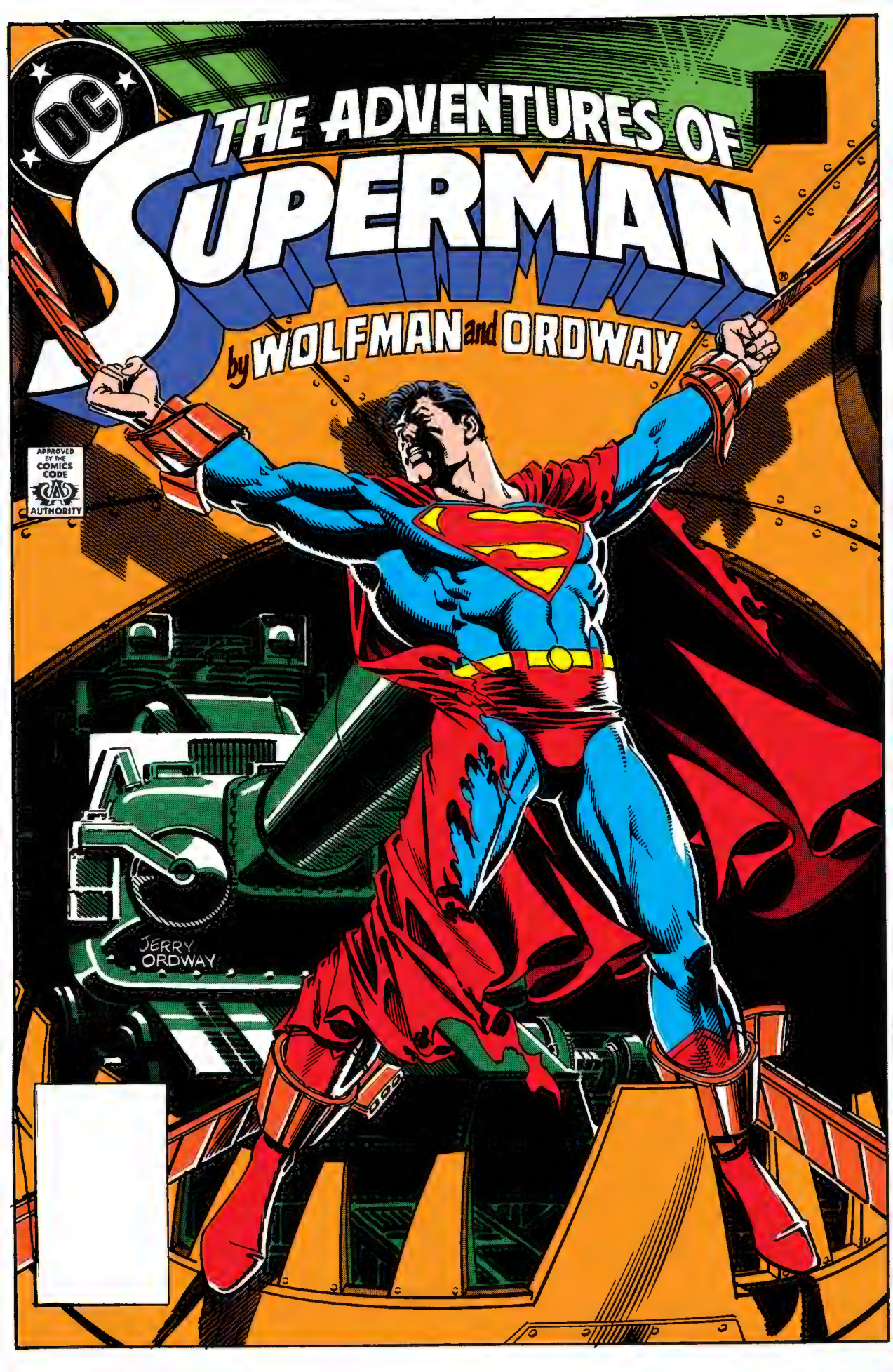
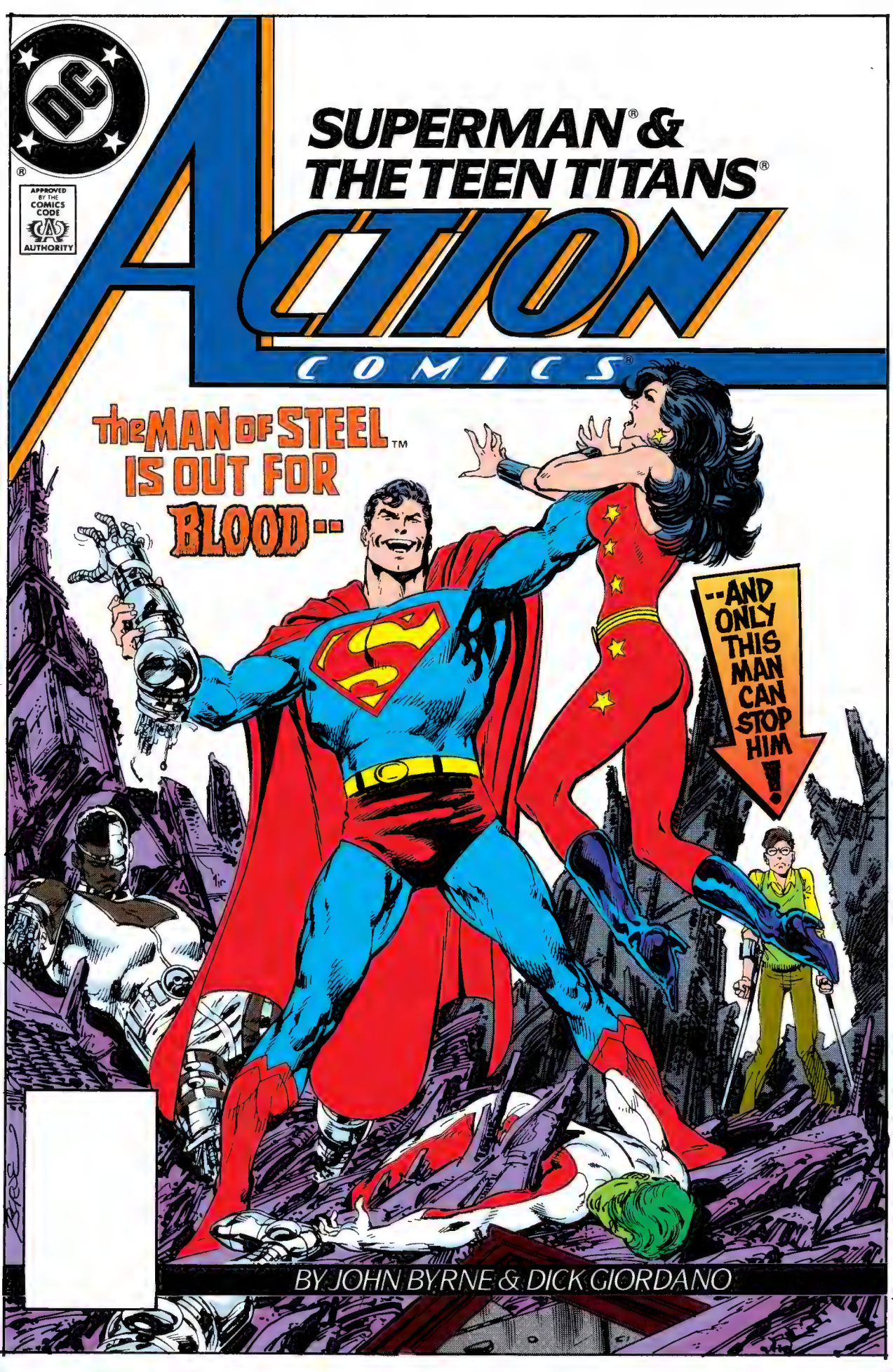
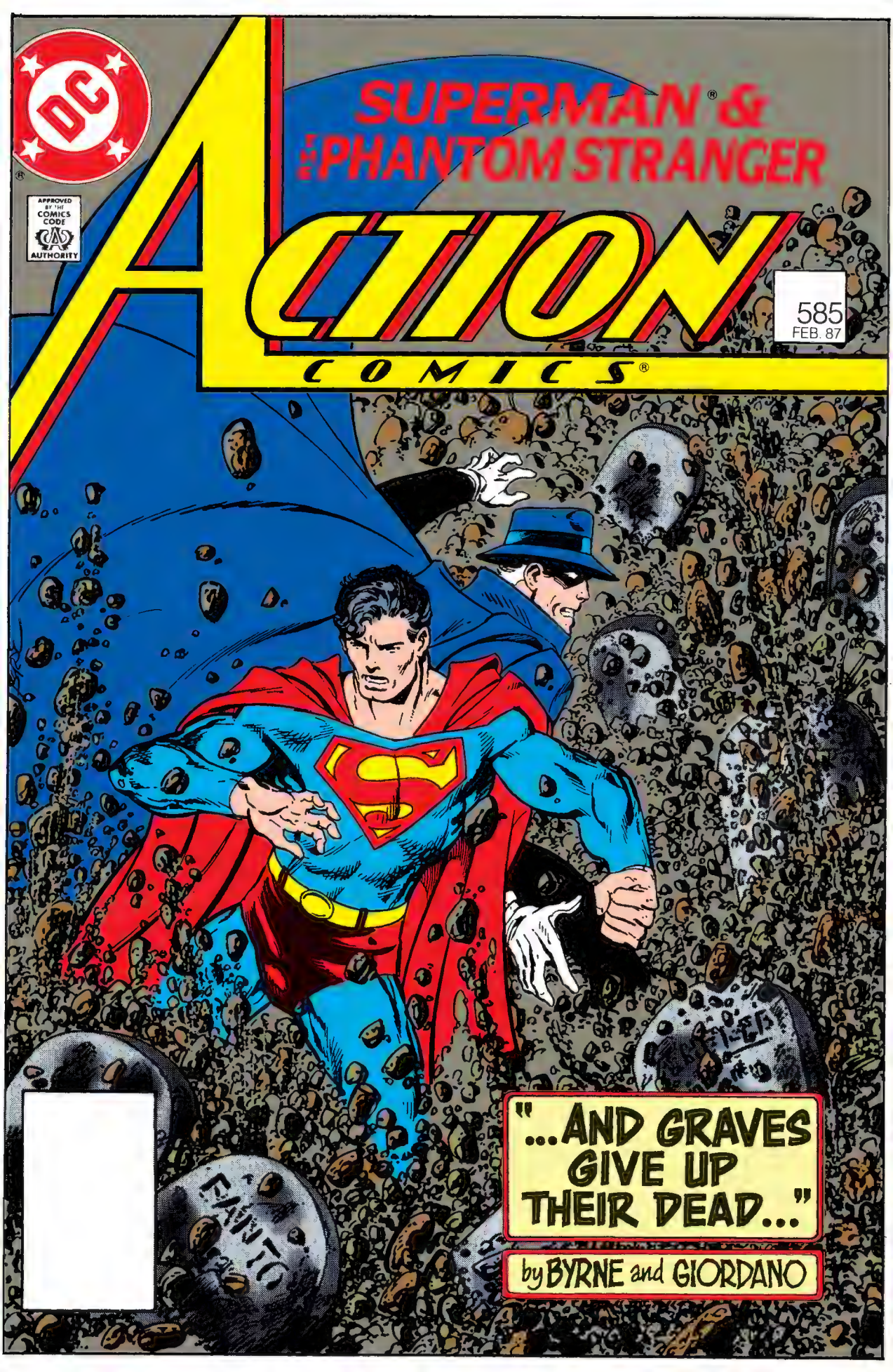
PREMIERE ISSUE--THE ADVENTURES BEGIN!
by
MARV WOLFMAN
& JERRY ORDWAY
JERRY ORDWAY


THE ADVENTURES OF
SUPERMAN
by WOLFMAN and ORDWAY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
JERRY ORDWAY

CROSS-OVER LEGENDS™ CHAPTER 18
426
MAR. 87
THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN®
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
By Marv Wolfman & Jerry Ordway


SUPERMAN® & THE TEEN TITANS®
ACTION COMICS®
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
the MAN OF STEEL™ IS OUT FOR BLOOD--
--AND ONLY THIS MAN CAN STOP HIM!
BY JOHN BYRNE & DICK GIORDANO


SUPERMAN® & THE PHANTOM STRANGER
ACTION COMICS®
585
FEB. 87
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
"...AND GRAVES GIVE UP THEIR DEAD..."
by BYRNE and GIORDANO

DC
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MAR. 87
SUPERMAN® & THE NEW GODS®
ACTION COMICS®
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ABOVE THE BLAZING FIRE-PITS...
ORION™ VS. SUPERMAN®... CHAMPION OF APOKOLIPS!
BY JOHN BYRNE & DICK GIORDANO

Lois Lane

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: None
Occupation: Reporter, Columnist, Novelist
Marital Status: Single
Known Relatives: Samuel (father), Ella (mother), Lucy (sister)
Group Affiliation: None
Base of Operations: Metropolis
First Appearance: ACTION COMICS #1
Height: 5'6" *Weight:* 120 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Brown

HISTORY

Lois Lane is the daughter of Samuel Lane, who led a career in the U.S. Army. As a result, Lois grew up on army bases around the world. (Samuel Lane now lives in retirement with his wife, Ella.) Lois has only one known sibling, her younger sister Lucy, who is now an airline flight attendant.

Lois became a reporter for the *Daily Planet,* Metropolis' leading newspaper (see *Daily Planet*). She first reported on crime for the *Planet* and swiftly became the newspaper's star reporter. Lois Lane is now a feature reporter for the *Planet* with her own regular column. In addition, Lane is a successful mystery novelist writing in the Agatha Christie tradition. She won an Edgar award for her mystery novel *Shadows on the Grass.* She is well known to the public in Metropolis, in part due to her television appearances.

Lois Lane has long been romantically pursued by billionaire Lex Luthor (see *Lex Luthor* revised). However, Lane has continually resisted Luthor's advances, since she is unwilling to be added to his long list of sexual conquests.

Years ago, Lane was aboard the experimental space-plane *Constitution* when it was to land at Metropolis International Airport as part of the celebration of the city's 250th anniversary. However, a small civilian plane collided with the space-plane, causing them both to plunge uncontrollably from the sky. Both aircraft were rescued by Superman (wearing ordinary clothing) in his first public use of his superhuman powers (see *Superman*). Disembarking from the space-plane, Lane confronted Superman, and he and she were immediately attracted to one another. Superman soon flew off, and he adopted both his costume and his new bespectacled appearance for his true identity of Clark Kent shortly thereafter. He called his costumed identity "Superman," after the name Lane had given him in her newspaper story about him.

Lane was determined to get the "story of the century," the very first interview with Superman. After continually missing opportunities to contact him, she finally drove her car off a pier. As she had hoped, Superman rescued her (knowing she had an aqualung with her) and gave her an interview. But Lane then discovered that Clark Kent had already submitted an interview with Superman to the *Planet,* thereby winning a job there.

Lane has never forgiven Kent for scooping her on this story, and they have remained professional rivals. But they nonetheless spend much time together. She grudgingly finds herself attracted to Kent, unaware that he is Superman. Lane has been involved in many of Superman's adventures over the years. As for Superman, he is determined to win her love as Clark Kent, no matter how long it takes.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Lois Lane is a brilliant reporter, brave, sharp-witted, and persistent. She keeps herself in good athletic condition, and has taken a police course in self-defense. □

Revised

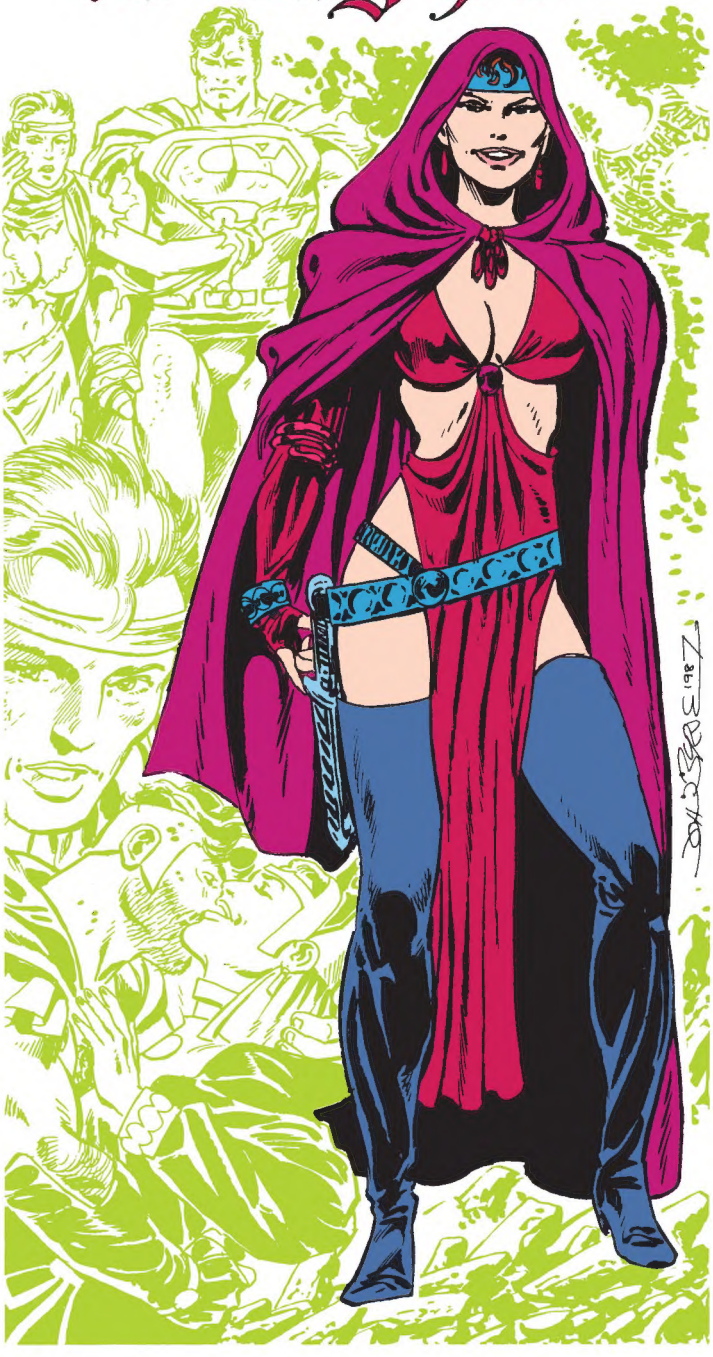
Art by John Byrne

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: None
Occupation: Agent of Darkseid
Marital Status: Presumed single
Known Relatives: Glorious Godfrey (brother)
Group Affiliation: Darkseid's Elite

Base of Operations: Apokolips
First Appearance: SUPERMAN (second series) #3
Height: 5'11" *Weight:* 127 lbs.
Eyes: Green *Hair:* Red

Amazing Grace



HISTORY

Like her brother Glorious Godfrey, Amazing Grace is a member of the elite serving Darkseid, the absolute ruler of the planet Apokolips (see *Apokolips, Darkseid, Glorious Godfrey*). Also, like Godfrey, Amazing Grace has the power to manipulate the minds of others. Hence, she can influence others to do or believe whatever she wishes.

Darkseid sent Amazing Grace to live among the oppressed workers of Apokolips who are known as the "lowlies" or "hunger dogs." Following Darkseid's instructions, Grace pretended to be a revolutionary and preached opposition to Darkseid's rule. Darkseid knew that many of the "hunger dogs" still hoped for freedom. His intention was to have Amazing Grace encourage their hopes and their will to resist, and then, at what Darkseid considered the proper time, he would have his forces crush the rebellion. Thus Darkseid hoped to extinguish the longing for freedom among the "lowlies" once and for all.

Darkseid's plans changed somewhat when he brought Superman (see *Superman II*) to Apokolips. Superman disguised himself as one of the "lowlies" of Armaghetto, an area of Apokolips. To lure him into the open, Darkseid had shock troops seize Grace and threaten to punish her for treason by hurling her into a fire-pit. Superman went to her rescue, but was himself plunged into one of the deadly fire-pits.

Superman was physically unharmed by the fire-pit and was fished out of it. On reviving, however, Superman lost his memory and his superhuman powers as well.

Amazing Grace told the "lowlies" that the fact that this stranger survived the fire-pit meant that he was the "savior" they had sought to lead their rebellion. Grace caused Superman to fall in love with her and suppressed his true personality. He was convinced he was Darkseid's son and persuaded to serve Darkseid's cause. Hence, Superman led the rebellion and then was pleased when Darkseid's para-demons crushed it. Darkseid subsequently restored Superman's powers but not his memory.

By then Darkseid's foes Orion and Lightray (see *Lightray, Orion*) had arrived. Grace attempted to put Lightray under her control but was thwarted when he used his powers to blind her temporarily. Superman regained his memory and true personality in an encounter with Orion. It is not yet known how Darkseid punished Amazing Grace for her failure with Lightray.

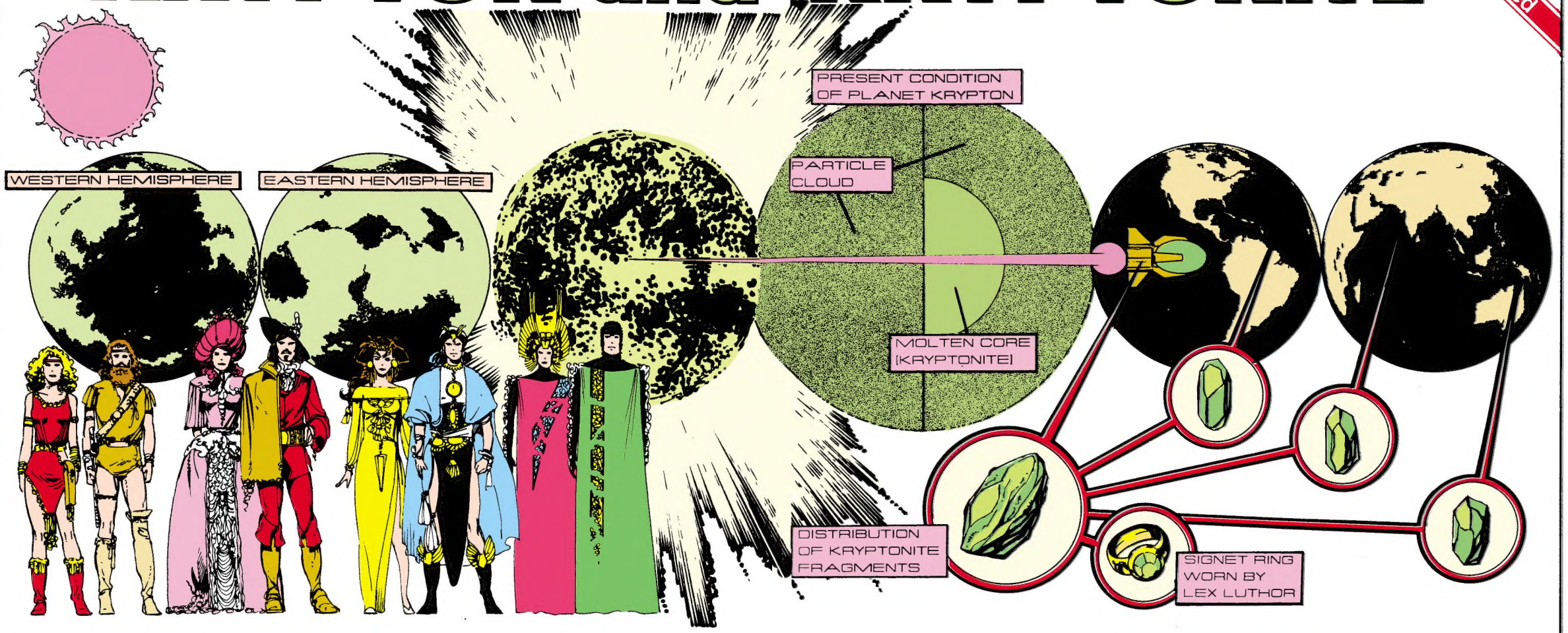
POWERS & WEAPONS

Amazing Grace has the power to manipulate the minds of others so as to influence them to do or believe what she wishes. Her powers are not as extensive as those of Glorious Godfrey. The origin of Grace's powers is unknown.

Art by John Byrne

KRYPTON and KRYPTONITE

Revised



HISTORY

Krypton was the native planet of Superman, Earth's greatest superhero (see *Superman II*). It was a world that was roughly the size of Earth and that orbited a red dwarf star that is approximately fifty light-years from Earth. Krypton presumably originated in the same way that planets normally do. (A previous account, alleging that Krypton was created by sentient beings called the Sun-Thrivers, is incorrect.) The origin of the humanoid race that inhabited Krypton is as yet unknown.

Well over a hundred thousand years ago, Kryptonian scientific achievement had already achieved a level surpassing that of present-day Earth's. The Kryptonians' perfection of cloning techniques wreaked a radical change in their society. Clones were grown from the cells of every living Kryptonian. Virtually any part of a Kryptonian's body that wore out from age, was severely injured, or became diseased could then be replaced with its counter-part from the clone. The clones were not allowed to develop thinking, conscious minds and were not recognized as sentient beings by Kryptonian law. The only part of the body that could not be replaced was the brain. However, Kryptonian science apparently also developed methods of preventing decay of the brain from age or senility, as well as means of retarding the aging process of the rest of the body. As a result, eventually no Kryptonian physically aged beyond the equivalent of forty Earth years, no matter what his or her true chronological age was, and death became nearly unknown.

Free from fears of injury, aging, or mortality, Kryptonians led lives that many might consider idyllic. Non-humanoid robots performed all mundane tasks, freeing the Kryptonians themselves for more stimulating forms of endeavor and providing them with leisure time. Thanks to Kryptonian science, Kryptonians had virtually perfect physiques. Their love of beauty and sensuality reflected itself in their fashions, architecture, and other forms of art. Science and art both made advances in new directions during this period. War was unknown. All of Krypton was governed by the Great Council, which met in Kandor, the planet's capital city.

But the advances in art and science merely served to provide new forms of pleasure to Kryptonians. The art they created no longer challenged their intellects or spirits. Scientists no longer delved into entirely new areas of study. In fact, Krypton's program for exploring outer space was eventually virtually abandoned. Kryptonian culture turned inward, for most Kryptonians were preoccupied with their own comfort. In effect, there was no truly major artistic or scientific breakthrough in Kryptonian society for thousands of years.

A large political faction in Kryptonian society demanded that the clones be allowed to develop thinking minds and personalities and to live normal lives, legally recognized as the equals of Kryptonians who were born, not cloned from cells. These political activists did not want body parts to be taken from the clones to replace those of Kryptonian citizens. A protest rally on the issue in Kandor led to a full-scale riot and fire there.

Then came the public revelation that a Kryptonian woman named Nyra had implanted modified RNA molecules from her own brain into a clone of herself, thereby giving the clone memories and a personality. Nyra had the clone's face surgically altered not to resemble her own and then passed the clone off as a normal Kryptonian citizen. The uproar over Nyra's action, which was illegal, led to war between the Clone Rights faction and the rest of Krypton.

As a result of the war, the Clone Banks were abolished and new methods were discovered for extending the youth and life spans of Kryptonians. Moreover, means were discovered and adopted throughout Krypton for giving birth to children without a physical relationship between the father and mother. Eventually, a system arose whereby a Kryptonian man and woman were selected to donate genetic material from their bodies. Cells from each would combine within a life-matrix device that was kept in the Kryptonian Gestation Chambers to form a new living being, which would grow within the matrix until it was finally released from it at birth.

This revolution in the method of procreation produced an even more radical change in Kryptonian society. For the last thousand years of Krypton's existence, Kryptonians were almost totally repressed sexually and emotionally. Kryptonian culture and society were emotionless, sterile, and spiritually dead.

Then, for reasons yet unknown, a chain reaction began building within Krypton, creating vast pressures that fused the principal elements making up the planet into a new, radioactive element now known as Kryptonite. Kryptonite radiation poisoning killed millions of Kryptonians. Moreover, the planet's internal pressures were causing earthquakes and building to the point of causing Krypton to explode.

Suspecting what was happening, the scientist Jor-El planned to equip his unborn son's protective life-matrix with an experimental star-drive unit and send him through hyperspace to the planet Earth. Jor-El was an unusual man for the society of his time, for he had fallen in love with Lara, the woman selected as the mother of his son. She and Jor-El shared another unusual emotion for that time, their parental love for the unborn infant.

In Lara's presence Jor-El launched his son's life-matrix to Earth just before Krypton exploded. The remains of Krypton, primarily consisting of Kryptonite, remain in orbit about Krypton's sun.

As Jor-El had theorized, a Kryptonian's cells, exposed to the radiation of a yellow sun, absorb solar energy, granting the Kryptonian superhuman powers. Possessed of such powers, Jor-El's son became Superman on Earth.

A piece of Kryptonite, about two pounds in weight, was embedded in the rocket that brought Superman to Earth by Krypton's explosion. This is the only specimen of Kryptonite on Earth. It was found by a scientist who used it to empower the cyborg Metallo, and is now in the possession of Lex Luthor, who has divided it into smaller pieces (see *Lex Luthor* revised, *Metallo* revised).

Kryptonite radiation will rapidly fill Superman's cells, driving the stored solar energy out, thereby reducing his superhuman powers. Sustained exposure to Kryptonite radiation over a brief period of time would kill Superman. Prolonged exposure over a greater time period would kill any living being. Kryptonite radiation's effect on Superman is not cumulative, and he will regain full health and strength on being separated from the radiation source. □

First Appearance: (Krypton) ACTION COMICS #1, first named in SUPERMAN (first series) #1, (Kryptonite) SUPERMAN (first series) #61

Art by John Byrne

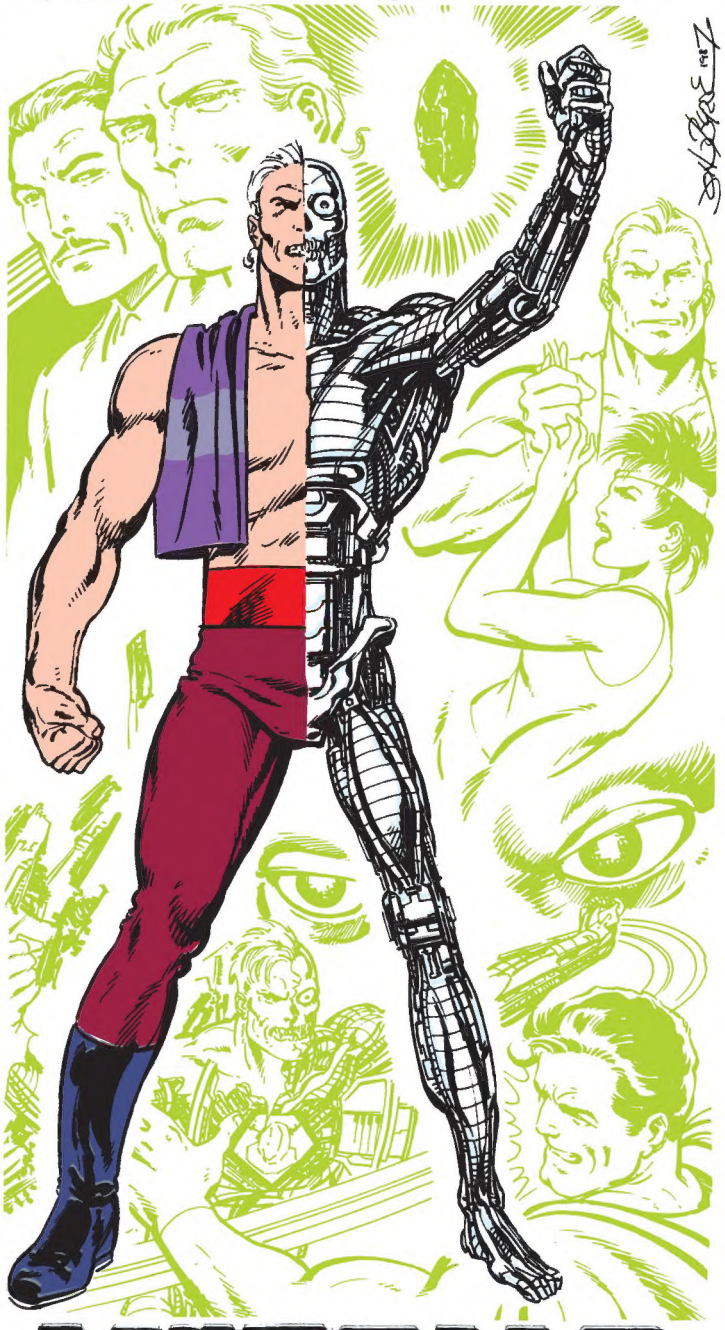
PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: John Corben
Occupation: Former Confidence Man, later Would-Be Conqueror
Marital Status: Unknown
Known Relatives: None
Group Affiliation: None

Base of Operations: Metropolis
First Appearance: ACTION COMICS #252
Height: 6'5" *Weight:* 600 lbs.
Eyes: Green *Hair:* White

HISTORY

For thirty-five years Professor Emmett Vale, a scientist, watched the skies for signs of invaders from another planet.



METALLO

Twenty-eight years ago, Vale sighted the spacecraft that brought Superman (see *Superman*) to Earth and tracked it to Kansas, where it landed. Vale eventually found the spacecraft and stole it. Translating part of a message that Superman's father, Jor-El, had left in the spacecraft, Vale learned of Krypton, the world on which Superman was born, and of its destruction (see *Krypton and Kryptonite* revised).

The paranoid Vale incorrectly hypothesized that the Kryptonians had sent Superman to Earth as a scout to prepare for the possible Kryptonian conquest of Earth. Vale believed, however, that he had found the means to destroy Superman, for a piece of Kryptonite, whose radiations are lethal to Kryptonians, had been embedded in the spacecraft.

Vale found John Corben, a criminal confidence man whose body had been crippled beyond repair in an automobile wreck. Vale transplanted Corben's living brain into a powerful robotic body which somehow drew energy from the uranium in its chest cavity. Vale renamed Corben Metallo and told him he was to kill Superman. To enable Metallo to do so, Vale replaced the uranium in Metallo's chest with the piece of Kryptonite. Believing he no longer needed Vale, Metallo broke the scientist's neck, killing him. Metallo wandered purposelessly for weeks until he finally decided to use his new power to achieve world domination. In order to do so, Metallo believed he first had to kill Superman.

Tracking down the stolen spacecraft, Superman eventually discovered Vale's corpse. Soon afterwards, Superman and Metallo met in combat. The radiation from Metallo's Kryptonite "heart" would have killed Superman had Metallo not been captured by agents of Superman's archenemy Lex Luthor (see *Lex Luthor* revised). Luthor saved Superman's life only because he was determined to bring about Superman's death himself.

While Metallo was helplessly held captive in one of Luthor's laboratories, Luthor removed the Kryptonite from his chest cavity, thereby deactivating Metallo. But whether this was truly the end of Metallo remains to be seen.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Metallo is a cyborg, whose living human brain exists within a robotic body, which has been made to look human by a plastic covering that resembles flesh. Although powerful firearms can wreak slight damage on Metallo's body, not even a collapsing building could destroy it. Metallo possesses great superhuman strength.

Metallo draws his energy from the radioactive material placed in his chest cavity. Kryptonite makes him far stronger than uranium does, and is a virtually inexhaustible power source for him. He can project Kryptonite radiation from his eyes. □

Art by John Byrne

Revised

5 YEARS EXPERIENCE

From Baaldur, with love...

GLORITH

ADAM & AL